ICAN
Icon for Child and Adult Nurturing

Research Ethics Policy for **Icon for Child and Adult Nurturing (I-CAN) Enterprise**

This policy describes the principles of the ethical conduct of research and defines the process for the ethical review of research conducted under the foundation.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

The Policy recognises and advocates the use of the following ethical principles:

a. Prevention of harm: 'Researchers must seek to protect participants from physical and psychological harm during the research process. Researchers should not make frivolous use of participants. Researchers must also take steps to protect their own physical and psychological well-being during the research process. The risk of harm must reflect a balance of impact on participants and the benefits of the research.

b. Informed consent: Informed consent helps to minimise harm to participants. Without informed consent, participants may feel manipulated, humiliated or mistreated by researchers. It is necessary to attain full participant consent unless there is a strong rationale for no or partial consent. Consent should be attained by researchers informing participants in advance of all necessary information expected to influence willingness to take part in the study. The process of gaining consent should also include how the research participants will be regularly informed of the research outcomes. Participants should be given the opportunity to ask questions about their involvement in the study before securing consent. Where the study involves more than a one-off research interaction, such as the case in the use of longitudinal research methods, it may be necessary to seek approval from participants at more than one juncture of the study.

c. Rights of participants: In giving consent, participants retain the right to withdraw this consent. If applicable, researchers should indicate at what point in the study participants

can withdraw consent or request data destruction. Participants should also be informed of what measures are in place for consent to be withdrawn if required.

d. Minimising risk with vulnerable participants: Some participants should automatically be considered vulnerable because of a limited ability to provide consent to take part in a research project, e.g. young children, people who are ill or bereaved. Other groups may be considered vulnerable because of the context, e.g. unemployed, migrants, refugees. Extra safeguards and consent procedures must be designed and followed when recruiting vulnerable participants to research projects.

e. Respect for participants: Researchers should aim to conduct research that is respectful of: national and international law, gender differences, all groups in society, and, marginalised/disadvantaged groups.

f. Confidentiality: Unless agreed otherwise, the findings from research should be communicated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the participants. Researchers are expected to protect the confidentiality of the participant's identity and data throughout the fullness of the research project. Where it is not possible or fitting to provide all information necessary for informed consent, it should be provided at an appropriate juncture once the participant has made the contribution to study.

g. Appropriate use of rewards and incentives: Incentivising participation in research projects should only be on the basis of making people want to take part, rather than only taking part because of the reward, or they cannot refuse such rewards.

h. Anti-discriminatory: Researchers should act in a manner that complies with the Equality Act 2010.

ETHICAL CONDUCT

The Policy also recognises and advocates the use of the following principles relation to academic conduct.

a. Reciprocity: Research should be based on the creation of outcomes for the common good.

b. Accessibility: Researchers should aim wherever possible to disseminate their findings in the public domain and through learning and teaching roles.

c. Independence: Researchers should not distort research design and/or findings to suit funder requirements.

d. Specified use of research funding: Researchers must not use funding for purposes other than that specified in their grant award.

e. Safe and secure data management: Steps must be taken to retain all research materials gathered (including physical and visual data), in a safe and confidential space, for a minimum period of five years. Where it is necessary to keep data for long periods of time, data should be stored wherever possible in an electronic format and kept password protected on a server.

Through the informed consent process, participants should be informed about how study data will be managed and how it long it will be retained.

f. Three Rs: Research involving animals research should aim to conform to the principles of replacement, reduction and refinement.

g. Ethical bioprospecting: Researching the commercial use of natural resources must be

respectful of indigenous territories and cultures, and take account of relevant international agreements (e.g. Nagoya Protocol).

h. Conform to the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights: Researchers should subscribe to universal guidelines covering all issues in the field of bio ethics.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

All research requires ethical review and if deemed necessary formal ethical approval should be sought. Further ethical approval or re-approval may also be required should significant details change on commencement of the proposed research project. Please note: retrospective ethical approval cannot be granted.

TRAINING

The researcher officer is responsible for facilitating appropriate research ethics training.

MISCONDUCT

Research ethics-related misconduct by researchers is covered by the Misconduct Policy. The consequences of such misconduct could involve staff being subject to Procedures for

Investigating Research Misconduct.

Research ethics-related misconduct include:

a. Misappropriation of another's intellectual property by plagiarism or breach of confidence as a reviewer;

b. Misrepresentation of research findings by deception or lying;

c. Obstruction, including withholding, destroying or falsifying evidence;

d. Unfairly influencing witnesses or interviewees;

e. Breach of confidentiality required by external contracts;

f. The deliberate commercial exploitation of ideas of others without acknowledgement and, where necessary, informed consent; and,

g. Failing to comply with statutory or institutional regulations, including ethical review

Dissemination Researchers should engage actively with the public at a local and national level and publish results widely as appropriate.