

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 – 2018, 29 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000639

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Health System Policy, Design and Innovation

**Topic:** NHMRC Standard Funding Agreement

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 139, 29 May 2017

**Senator:** Griff, Stirling

**Question:**

Prof. Kelso: It is a requirement that results will be published, but the exact way that that will be achieved is not something that is spelt out in our funding agreements with administering institutions. We have a broad funding agreement which covers the full range of the type of research that NHMRC funds. We do not have a specific funding agreement for clinical trials. Senator GRIFF: On notice, could you provide a standard agreement that you would have? Prof. Kelso: Yes, of course.

**Answer:**

The National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) standard funding agreement is available at:

[https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/grants/policy/nhmrc\\_funding\\_agreement\\_effective\\_october15\\_150807\\_0.pdf](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/grants/policy/nhmrc_funding_agreement_effective_october15_150807_0.pdf)

The standard funding agreement states:

'12.9. If required by an NHMRC policy about the dissemination of research findings, the Administering Institution must deposit any publication resulting from a Research Activity, and its related data, in an appropriate subject and/or open access repository...in accordance with the timeframe and other requirements set out in that policy.'

*NHMRC's Policy on the Dissemination of Research Findings* '...requires that any publication arising from NHMRC supported research must be deposited into an open access institutional repository and/or made available in another open access format within a twelve month period from the date of publication.'

The standard funding agreement requires NHMRC-registered Administering Institutions to comply with NHMRC Approved Standards and Guidelines including the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (the Code)*. Under the Code:

'2.5.2 Research data should be made available for use by other researchers unless this is prevented by ethical, privacy or confidentiality matters.

4.4 Researchers have a responsibility to their colleagues and the wider community to disseminate a full account of their research as broadly as possible.

4.4.1 The account should be complete, and, where applicable, include negative findings and results contrary to their hypotheses.’

In April 2015, NHMRC released the *NHMRC Statement on Data Sharing*. This statement ‘...encourages data sharing and providing access to data and other research outputs (metadata, analysis code, study protocols, study materials and other collected data) arising from NHMRC supported research.’