

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000872

OUTCOME: 1 - Health System Policy, Design and Innovation

Topic: Research Funding

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

At the public hearing on Funding for Research into Cancers with Low Survival Rates when asked about the publication of the results of trials Prof Kelso stated "It is an expectation rather than a formal requirement." (May 19, Hansard page 32). During Estimates (May 29, Hansard, pg 139), Professor Kelso said "It is a requirement that results will be published". Can NHMRC please clarify whether there is any requirement to publish the results of trials, and if so, detail that requirement (that is, is it a formal requirement or implied, is any reporting back to NHMRC or is it just in medical literature, etc?)

Answer:

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has a funding agreement with each NHMRC-registered Administering Institution.

This 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.’