1. INTENT

To establish policy with regard to research agreements, collaborative research and potential conflicts of interest.

The major focus of this policy relates to research projects that involve external organisations as sponsors, contributors or collaborative partners. In such cases there are a number of issues that need to be addressed, including ethics and safety approvals, data management, copyright, sharing intellectual property, managing research findings, conflicts of interest and commercialising research outcomes.

2. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, affiliated researchers and students involved in research and research-related activities at ECU.

3. DEFINITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
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<tr>
<td>“Collaborative research” means</td>
<td>research conducted jointly by two or more investigators within or across institutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Research” means</td>
<td>the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it leads to new and creative outcomes.</td>
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4. POLICY CONTENT

4.1 Researchers involved in multi-institutional research projects, or in collaborative projects between public and private research organisations and sponsors, must have a written agreement to manage all aspects of the research.

The written agreement must cover at least the following:

- ethics and safety approvals
- intellectual property;
- copyright;
- data management;
- dissemination and publication of research;
- sharing commercial returns;
- conflicts of interest; and
- reporting to appropriate agencies.

4.2 Researchers involved in research that involves informal collaboration should give consideration to whether an exchange of letters or signed research management plan covering the issues raised in the policy statement is required.

4.3 Researchers involved in multi-institutional research projects, or in collaborative projects between public and private research organisations and sponsors, must have a written agreement, and be aware of the contractual arrangements with their employing institution, and with the sponsors and/or funders of their research.

4.4 Researchers must not allow personal advantage to influence decisions regarding the representation or interpretation of research findings, nor gain personal advantage by not revealing a conflict of interest.

4.5 Researchers involved in multi-institutional research projects, or in collaborative projects between public and private research organisations and sponsors, must establish a written agreement between their employing institution and collaborating institutions including the sponsors and/or funders of their research.

4.6 All written agreements must be authorised by the appropriate officer identified within the University’s delegations; usually the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor responsible for Research or the Director, Office of Research and Innovation, after receiving advice from the Office of Research and Innovation.

4.7 Researchers must be aware of and comply with all institutional policies that apply to their research activity, including matters such as financial arrangements; intellectual property; authorship, publication including acknowledgements, and other research dissemination; consultancies, commercial-in-confidence issues, reporting requirements (including reporting potential safety or environmental hazards), ethics clearance, and ownership of equipment.

4.8 Researchers are responsible for being aware of their institution’s policies and procedures relating to research data and records management in collaborative research projects (see Research Data and Records Management Policy). The collaborating parties should identify a researcher to have responsibility for the management of primary materials and research data to be retained at the end of the project.
4.9 When establishing a research collaboration, researchers have a responsibility to disclose, at the time of proposing or reporting research, any potential conflicts of interest that may influence or be seen to influence any aspect of the conduct of the research.

4.10 Researchers must disclose to the their relevant Line Manager and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor responsible for Research any affiliation with, or financial involvement in, any organisation or entity with a direct interest in the subject matter or materials of researchers. Such disclosure must cover the full range of potential interests, including direct benefits such as sponsorship of the investigation or indirect benefits such as the provision of materials or facilities or the provision of travel or accommodation expenses to attend conferences. Such disclosure should cover any situation in which the conflict of interest may, or may be perceived to affect any decision regarding the research or other people.

4.11 Researchers must ensure they are familiar with and comply with the policy for dealing with Fraud and Misconduct at ECU.

4.12 A research worker must comply with a direction made by the Vice-Chancellor in relation to a conflict of interest in research. The Vice-Chancellor may decide that researchers have an obligation to disclose to editors of journals, to the readers of published work, and to external bodies from which funds are sought any conflict of interest which has the potential to influence research and investigations, publication and media reports, grant applications and applications for appointment and promotion.

5. ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In relation to this policy, the following positions are responsible for the following:

Policy Owner

The Policy Owner, being the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), has overall responsibility for the content of this policy and its operation in ECU.

Staff and students of Edith Cowan University

All Edith Cowan University students and staff are required to comply with the content of this policy and to seek guidance in the event of uncertainty as to its application.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Other documents which are relevant to the operation of this Policy are as follows:

- Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, Australian Research Council (ARC), Universities Australia and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australian Government 2007
- Conflicts of Interest policy and guidelines (rm009).

7. CONTACT INFORMATION
For queries relating to this document please contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Owner</th>
<th>Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Enquiries Contact:</td>
<td>Director, Office of Research and Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone:</td>
<td>08 6304 5401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret.jones@ecu.edu.au">margaret.jones@ecu.edu.au</a></td>
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### 8. APPROVAL HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy approved by:</th>
<th>Vice-Chancellor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date first approved:</td>
<td>12 June 2008 (AB23/08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date last modified:</td>
<td>20 November 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision history:</td>
<td>20 November 2015 – reviewed in light of organisational structure. Minor amendment to include reference to new Conflicts of Interest policy and guidelines in related documents. Approved by Policy Owner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next revision due:</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPRM file reference:</td>
<td>SUB/4669</td>
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