

Subject: Ethics Clearance 010/15 Pathways to Market

Date: Wednesday, 15 April 2015 at 6:54:48 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: Pitkin, Cathy (Science Excellence, Dutton Park)

To: Terhorst, Andrew (Digital, Sandy Bay)

Dear Andrew

We have now undertaken an initial ethics review and risk assessment of your research proposal entitled "**Pathways to Market – Knowledge Sharing and Knowledge Creation in Food Innovation Networks**" (010/15).

Please be advised that based on the information you have provided your project has been assessed against the requirements of the National Statement as posing a low risk to participants. As such ethical clearance has been granted for you to undertake the research and for the project to be managed within CSIRO's existing project management processes. Ethical clearance has been granted for the period **14/04/15 – 30/06/16** subject to the following conditions:

- a copy of the consent materials to be used for individual interviews to be provided for review and clearance **prior to use**
- particular care needs to be taken in the storage of data and any reporting of the study findings to ensure the information remains in a non-identifiable form. This will be particularly important in any feedback to those in the participant group, due to the limited number of participants and organisations involved in the case studies and the fact that people will be well known to each other making the potential for identification greater.
- when using SNA's in a study of this nature there is a need to be careful that assumptions are not made about relationships in the network. It can be problematic for instance if the data collection and subsequent analysis capture views on the perceived volume and 'strength' of relationships which may then preclude gaining a full understanding of the quality, direction and valency of a relationship. Eg. Relationships by individuals who act as 'gatekeepers' of knowledge may appear to be strong and well developed whilst the effect of that relationship may actually be quite negative in terms of knowledge sharing with others etc. The range of questions being used to assess relationships as part of the SNA should therefore seek to explore all these variables as much as possible.

In granting this clearance we would like to remind you of the need to adhere to the requirements of the National Statement at all times during the life of the project. Should any adverse events occur during or resulting from the research or any ethically relevant variations be needed regarding the project's implementation or completion you are required to notify us immediately for further advice or amended clearance. You will also be required to complete a brief report about the project upon its completion. A template for this report will be forwarded to you in due course.

We wish you all the best with the research.

Sincerely

Cathy Pitkin

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CSIRO

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Please note that I do not work on Mondays

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