

<b>Purpose:</b>	This policy assists Murdoch University to comply with the requirements of the <i>Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research</i> ..		
<b>Audience:</b>	Staff and students		
<b>Supporting Procedures:</b>	<i>Research Misconduct Procedure</i>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Manager, Research Ethics	<b>Phone:</b>	9360 6170

**Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy in Policy and Procedure Manager™ [the electronic policy management system (EPMS)] to ensure you are referring to the latest version.**

**Preamble:**

The boundary between minor and serious issues in allegations of breaches of the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2007* (the Code) and research misconduct is not sharp. This policy deals with all forms of research misconduct, recognising that less serious 'breaches' of the Code may be dealt with by informal and internal processes.

This policy takes into account that penalties applied have consequences and it therefore attempts to achieve procedural fairness for all parties involved. This policy also aims to protect Murdoch University's research reputation.

The *Research Misconduct Policy* is part of a suite of policies that support the *Responsible Conduct of Research Policy*, designed to ensure that research undertaken at Murdoch University complies with the Code.

**Objectives:**

1. To provide a framework and principles for the consistent investigation and management of breaches of the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2007*.
2. To provide a framework and principles for the consistent investigation and management of allegations of research misconduct, in accordance with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2007*.

**Policy:**

1. This policy provides a framework for identifying research misconduct and applies to:
  - 1.1 all current staff, including holders of honorary appointments, conducting research at or on behalf of Murdoch University;
  - 1.2 all former staff of Murdoch University who have been engaged in activities in any way associated with the allegation of misconduct;
  - 1.3 all research conducted by or through Murdoch University; and
  - 1.4 all current and former research students at Murdoch University.
2. The Code distinguishes between minor issues (*breaches*), which are less serious deviations from the Code that can be remedied via normal internal procedures, and more serious deliberate deviations (*research misconduct*) where resolution may involve people external to the University.
3. An allegation relates to research misconduct if it involves the following:
  - 3.1 failure to comply with the Code or a breach of the Code;

- 3.2 intent, recklessness or negligence; and
- 3.3 serious consequences or adverse effects, either directly or indirectly, on individuals involved, the wider Murdoch University community, animals, the environment or the general public and Murdoch University's reputation.
- 4. Research misconduct does not include:
  - 4.1 good faith differences in judgment in the management of the research project or delivery of research outputs; and
  - 4.2 errors that are minor and unintentional.
- 5. Anyone who considers that a breach of the *Code* or research misconduct has occurred must act in a timely manner, in accordance with the *Research Misconduct Procedure*.
- 6. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) shall appoint Research Integrity Advisers (RIAs) to provide advice on a research conduct issue and explain the options open to the person considering, making, or having made an allegation.
  - 6.1 RIAs should be senior staff members with research experience, wisdom, analytical skills, empathy, knowledge of Murdoch University's policy and management structure, and familiarity with the accepted practices in research.
  - 6.2 The RIA should not provide advice in a case in which they have a conflict of interest.
- 7. Murdoch University will respond promptly to any allegation of a breach of the *Code* or misconduct in research:
  - 7.1 to assess if the allegation is warranted; and
  - 7.2 to investigate the allegation as necessary.
- 8. All parties will be treated fairly.
  - 8.1 The respondent must be granted the opportunity to respond to any allegation consistent with the principles of procedural fairness.
  - 8.2 The complainant may request that the matter be treated in accordance with the *Public Interests Disclosure Act (WA) 2003*.
- 9. Where the allegations of research misconduct are associated with other forms of misconduct, the instruments and processes for those other areas may be applied independent of the processes in the *Research Misconduct Procedure* (e.g. *Staff Code of Conduct* or the *Student Discipline Regulations*).
- 10. The ultimate responsibility for decisions that impact on the research student's enrolment or researcher's employment or sanctions to be applied lie with the Vice Chancellor.
  - 10.1 Penalties applied must align with the applicable industrial instrument/s.
- 11. A respondent may appeal the outcome of a process via avenues stated in the *Research Misconduct Procedure*.
- 12. If an allegation is dismissed, reasonable steps must be taken in an effort to restore the good reputation of the researcher, any associates, and the University.
- 13. All records of proceedings relating to an allegation must be maintained in accordance with Murdoch University's *Recordkeeping Policy*.

### **Supporting Procedures:**

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) is authorised to approve all the supporting procedures.

### **Supporting Guidelines:**

There are no supporting guidelines.

**Supporting Standards:**

There are no supporting standards.

**Performance Indicators:**

1. Allegations of research misconduct are dealt with in accordance with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*.

**Definitions:**

**These definitions have been copied from the "Dictionary of Terms". Please refer to the "Dictionary of Terms" in Policy and Procedure Manager™ to ensure you are referring to the latest version.**

"Researchers"

"Research students"

**Related Documents:**

2010. *Murdoch University Academic Staff Enterprise Agreement 2010*. Perth, WA: Murdoch University.

2010. *Murdoch University General Staff Enterprise Agreement 2010*. Perth, WA: Murdoch University.

2010. *Staff Code of Conduct*. Perth, WA: Murdoch University.

2010. *Student Code of Conduct*. Perth, WA: Murdoch University.

2010. *Student Discipline Regulations*. Perth, WA: Murdoch University.

[Research Misconduct Procedure](#)

**References:**

2011. *Guidelines for Managing Alleged Breaches of the Code of Conduct for Research and Allegations of Research Misconduct*. WA: University of Western Australia.

2008. *Investigation of Allegations of Research misconduct Guidelines*. NSW: The University of Newcastle.

2007. National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council, and Universities Australia. *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*. Canberra, ACT: Australian Government.

2011. *Research Misconduct*. Hawthorn, VIC: Swinburne University of Technology.

2011. *Responsible Conduct of Research: Procedures for Investigating Complaints Concerning Research Misconduct*. VIC: Monash University.

2011. *Staff Research Misconduct Procedure*. VIC: Deakin University.

**Approval and Implementation:**

<b>Approval Authority:</b>	Senate
<b>Responsible Officer(s):</b>	Director, Research and Development

**Revision History:**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Effective Date (if later than 'Date Approved')</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>	<b>Resolution No. (if applicable)</b>
	03/10/2012		03/10/2015	S/23/2012(i)