

Fact Sheet: Engaging BC/FaDS

Process Flow

The current process flow for undertaking research within Blue Care and Family & Disability Services (FaDS) is depicted on the flow chart over leaf.

External ethics processes and approvals are independent of the approvals and review processes required by Uniting Care.

In brief, the Research Approval Group (RAG) process is designed to evaluate the impact and the relevance of the project to the Uniting Care group, in the context of other projects which may be in train or planned for the organisation. The UnitingCare Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) body is registered with the National Health & Medical Research Centre (NHMRC) and considers all ethical considerations of the project, which in turn is linked to the planned methodology.

A joint application form is used to streamline the process of the two tiered system, a structure which is fast becoming accepted as best practice.

Scoping

In order to submit an application to the RAG/HREC, researchers will need to have first established provisional support from the relevant operational decision makers within UnitingCare. The Research Advisor (Blue Care or FaDS) is instrumental in facilitating this communication and can then further facilitate the preparation of a combined RAG/HREC application.

In considering the scope and impact of the project, the review committees will require specific information regarding both staff and participants to be involved with the project:

- Sample size
- Time commitment involved
- Exclusion/Inclusion criteria
- Method of recruitment and communication
- Risks and benefits.

Research Advisor Contact Details

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Engaging UnitingCare for Research Purposes

