

# RESEARCH POLICY

## POSITION STATEMENT

1. Safe Network is committed to supporting research in those areas relevant to the work of the Agency.
2. All research undertaken at Safe Network, whether internally or externally led, shall adhere to the following principles:
  - a. Research design and methodology is scientifically robust
  - b. Research design and methodology is ethical
  - c. Research design, methodology and reporting is culturally responsive
  - d. The potential benefits of the research outweigh the risks and costs involved
  - e. Informed consent is obtained from all research participants
  - f. Participants' privacy and confidentiality is protected.
3. All research undertaken at Safe Network should be of benefit to the Agency.

## POLICY

### Criteria

4. Consideration of any research proposal will take into account its relevance to the work of Safe Network, its client base, and the wider harmful sexual behaviour and social services sectors.
5. All parties wishing to undertake research at Safe Network must complete and submit an application for consideration and approval.
6. The primary criterion for all research undertaken at Safe Network is that it benefits the Agency's clinical or operational practice, and links to Safe Network's strategic priorities.
7. Consideration shall also be given the following secondary criteria:
  - a. The research aligns with sector-wide initiatives that enhance or support sector partners
  - b. The research supports the education, training and development of students or professionals in related fields.
8. Other factors to be considered include:
  - a. Whether the scope of the research is clearly defined and links to literature
  - b. The impacts of the research on the Agency's operations including clients, staff time, incidental costs and workflow

- c. Compliance with appropriate medico-legal, professional and ethical standards
  - d. What research outputs are to be provided to Safe Network, e.g. reports, presentations and recommendations for clinical practice.
- 9. Research involving clients must have New Zealand or Australian-based ethics approval.
- 10. Research that involves Maori participants should:
  - a. Be undertaken in a culturally appropriate and responsive way that maintains or enhances mana Maori
  - b. Contribute as much as possible to improving Maori health and well-being.
- 11. Researchers are required to:
  - a. Comply with Safe Network's policies, including health and safety
  - b. Provide regular updates on progress to Safe Network during the course of the research
  - c. Present their findings to Safe Network, along with any practice implications for the Agency.

### **Research agreements**

- 12. A research agreement is required for all research projects.
- 13. The research agreement shall document the ownership of the research findings, including any intellectual property (IP) arising from the research, and the rights of the various parties to publicise, publish and use these.
- 14. Safe Network will have sole or joint ownership of the findings and any IP arising from research it commissions and funds.
- 15. Where Safe Network does not own the IP arising from the research, it shall be a condition of its contribution to the research that it has the rights to:
  - a. A permanent, nonexclusive and royalty-free licence to use research findings and any IP arising from these in the training of staff and the delivery of services
  - b. Publicise the research, subject to any restrictions on full publication.
- 16. The research agreement should include a requirement for all parties to not unreasonably limit freedom of disclosure or publication.

This Child Protection Policy was approved by the Chief Executive of Safe Network on 25 June 2025 and is effective from 1 July 2025.

This policy replaces all previous versions of the Research Policy.

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