The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research
- challenges and responses

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WORKING TO BUILD A HEALTHY AUSTRALIA
Today's presentation

• Australia’s framework for research

• The three Australian research standards

• The Code

• Positive aspects

• Challenges
Australia’s framework for conduct of research

Research governance and conduct

Human research

Animal research

Other research – gene technology, therapeutic goods etc
Australia’s framework for conduct of research

Based on national standards and guidelines

Largely an institutional responsibility

Requirements expected, and compliance monitored, through funding body agreements
Australian national standards

National Health and Medical Research Council
Australian Research Council
Universities Australia

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WORKING TO BUILD A HEALTHY AUSTRALIA
Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2007
Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2007

Part A
- responsibilities of institutions
- responsibilities of researchers
- data management
- supervision
- publication
- authorship
- peer review
- conflicts of interest
- collaborative research

Part B
- handling allegations of research misconduct

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Responsibilities of Institutions

- promote the responsible conduct of research
- establish good governance and management practices
- train staff
- promote mentoring
- ensure a safe research environment
Responsibilities of Researchers

- maintain high standards of responsible research
- report research responsibly
- respect human research participants
- involvement in or effects of research on Indigenous Australians
- respect animals used in research
- respect the environment
- report research misconduct
- consumer and community participation in research
Positive aspects

• Joint authorship

• Institutional responsibilities

• Researcher responsibilities

• External and independent process for considering serious research misconduct
Challenges

• Legal basis
  – through funding agreements
• Part A
• Part B
  – Consistent with employment agreements with employees
  – Non-employees (students, honoraries, visiting)
  – Previous employees – retired, resigned
• Collaborative research governance arrangements
• Responsibilities to raise awareness, investigate
• Avenues of complaint or appeal
Other Australian advances in research governance

- Australian Research Integrity Committee

- to consider cases in which persons have concerns over the processes used by an institution in the handling of allegations of research misconduct
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