

Research policy

This is a mandated policy under the operational policy framework. Any edits to this policy must follow the process outlined on the [creating, updating and deleting policy documents](#) page.

Overview

This policy outlines the requirements for research undertaken within department sites and services including research initiated by the department and for reporting on research findings within the department.

The policy aims to:

- support the department's commitment to evidence-informed policy and decision making
- be inclusive of all department partners for the purposes of delivering on the department's vision and strategic priorities.

The elements that underpin this policy include:

- Informing key strategic decisions that affect education and child development through evidence from research (including evaluation and data analysis).
- Providing key decision-makers within the department with evidence to inform strategic and operational decisions, and some assessment of the quality of that evidence.
- Supporting continual improvement of services, policies, programs and legislative reform that leads to improvement in education and child development outcomes.
- Transferring knowledge gained from research into improvements in practice by educators and other employees working directly with children and young people.
- Ensuring that research undertaken in the department's sites is ethical, safe and respects the autonomy and rights of children and young people, employees and volunteers, as well as parents, guardians, employees and the community.
- Ensuring that research initiated, commissioned, partnered or sponsored by the department is of high quality and will provide reliable evidence.
- Encouraging research activity by department employees and external parties.

Scope

This policy applies to the following stakeholders who are undertaking or propose to undertake research at a department site or service, or use department data, and is inclusive of any research that is managed by the department:

- department employees
- research organisations



- student researchers
- external researchers
- evaluators.

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Detail

Reporting on research

The Senior Executive Group (SEG) will ensure that strategic decisions are informed by evidence.

Strategic and operational information will be provided to key decision-makers in the department to support continual improvement of services, policies, programs and legislative reform that leads to improvement in child development and learning outcomes.

Major Australian and international research and evaluation reports and findings, including those commissioned or sponsored by the department will be actively and systematically considered.

Conducting research with employees, students and data

Researchers seeking to undertake research in or involving the department's sites will be required to meet the requirements described within the [conducting research and evaluation with department staff and students procedure \(PDF 155KB\)](#).

To encourage consistency and guide decision making around research the System Performance division will oversee the review and approval of research applications.

Research will only be undertaken in departmental sites if it:

- does not conflict with department policies
- will be conducted in a manner that is ethical, safe and respects the autonomy and rights of children and young people, employees and volunteers
- complies with the requirements set out in the conducting research with department employees, students and data procedure.

Building research capacity and collaboration

The department will develop and promote the policy across the department and with partners for a shared commitment to conduct research and apply research findings that will inform education and child development policy, program and practice.

Partnerships between and among departmental employees, researchers, educators, parents, families, other education institutions, business and community organisations will be fostered to address priority research needs and share approaches for connecting research findings to policy and practice.

Individual and organisational capacity to access, use and conduct research will be developed to support the department's research culture and internal capacity building.

Roles and responsibilities

System Performance division

Oversee the department's research application submission process.

Provide advice and report on significant research evidence to key decision-makers within the department.

Provide support and quality assurance where feasible to department employees initiating or reporting on research.

Provide an assessment (or review) of the quality of the evidence made

Provide a summary of the findings and recommendations of the evidence

Provide a response to those findings drafted in consultation with other divisions, for consideration by key decision-makers in the department. Where the management response to the recommendations requires a change in practice by teachers and other department employees working directly with children and young people, it will incorporate any necessary recommended changes to policy and a communications plan for operational employees, professional associations and those responsible for teacher and leader professional development

All employees

Comply with this policy.

Definitions

research

'Research is defined as the creation of new knowledge or the use of existing knowledge in new, creative and systematic ways so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings' (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2002).

A studious inquiry or examination. Especially an investigation or experimentation aimed at the:

- discovery and interpretation of facts
- revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts
- practical application of such new or revised theories or laws.

evaluation

the systematic collection and analysis of information about the activities, characteristics, and outcomes of programs to make judgments about the program, guide improvement in program effectiveness and/or inform decisions about future programming. Programs include services, projects, policies, interventions,

initiatives, business processes and activities.

key decision-makers

The department's Senior Executive Group (SEG), the Chief Executive, the Minister for Education.

Supporting information

Related legislation

Nil.

Related policies

[Conducting research and evaluation with department staff and students procedure \(PDF 155KB\)](#)

Record history

Published date: August 2024

Approvals

OP number: 213

File number: DE 20/10836

Status: approved

Version: 2.6

Policy officer: Assistant Director, Data Reporting and Analytics

Policy sponsor: Director, Data Reporting and Analytics

Responsible Executive Director: Executive Director, System Performance

Approved by: Director, Data Reporting and Analytics

Approved date: 21 August 2024

Next review date: 21 August 2027

Revision record

Version: 2.6

Approved by: Director, Data Reporting and Analytics

Approved date: 21 August 2024

Review date: 21 August 2027

Amendment(s): In the Contact section, please delete the telephone number which is listed after the email address.

Version: 2.5

Approved by: Director, Data Reporting and Analytics

Approved date: 7 February 2023

Review date: 7 February 2026

Amendment(s): Review of policy, updated footer to February 2023, updated approvals and revision record.

Version: 2.4

Approved by: Executive Director, System Performance

Approved date: 3 December 2019

Review date: 3 December 2022

Amendment(s): New branding applied to document, published as HTML document on EDi, edited for plain English in consultation with Communications directorate.

Version: 2.3

Approved date: 2 June 2017

Amendment(s): Updated title of procedure amended throughout document.

Version: 2.2

Approved date: 23 March 2017

Amendment(s): All references to A/executive director, Office for Strategy and Performance changed to executive director, System Performance and updated hyperlinks.

Version: 2.1

Approved date: 22 March 2016

Amendment(s): Approved by A/executive director, Office for Strategy and Performance.

Version: 2.0

Approved date: 2014

Amendment(s): Replaces existing Evaluation policy and Research and innovation framework.

Version: 1.0

Approved date: 2013

Amendment(s): Revised evaluation policy and established Research and innovation framework.

Contact

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