Policy: Responsible conduct of research

Purpose
The Responsible conduct of research policy outlines the expectations upon ANU researchers to foster and maintain a research environment of intellectual honesty, integrity, and scholarly and scientific rigour.

Overview
This policy promotes responsible conduct of research and outlines high-level principles all ANU researchers are expected to adhere to. The policy is supplemented by the Code of Research Conduct, which contains more detailed obligations and advice. The Policy and Code should be read together.

Scope
This policy applies across the University.

Policy statement
1. ANU researchers must:
   a. Comply with ethical principles of integrity, respect for persons, justice and beneficence.
   b. Respect the truth and the rights of those affected by their research.
   c. Ensure that they are competent to perform the research they plan to undertake.
   d. Manage conflicts of interest so that ambition and personal advantage do not compromise ethical or scholarly considerations.
   e. Adopt rigorous methods appropriate to achieving the aims of each research proposal.
   f. Follow proper practices for safety and security.
   g. Cite awards, degrees conferred and research publications accurately, including the status of any publication, such as under review or in press.
   h. Ensure that research findings are disseminated responsibly, and accept responsibility for their actions when disseminating research findings.
i. Respect research participants and animals in research, in accordance with the (1) National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research, (2) Values and Ethics – Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, and (3) Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.

j. Comply with responsibilities under the ANU Code of Conduct. Conform to the policies adopted by ANU and bodies funding ANU research as appropriate.

k. Comply with responsibilities under the ANU Code of Research Conduct (based on the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018), taking into account disciplinary conventions, and promote adoption of the code.

l. Follow the AIATSIS Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies and acknowledge the cultural significance of Indigenous heritage, traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.

m. Comply with the ANU Policy on Intellectual Property, related procedures and guidelines.

n. Comply with all Australian legislation relating to research; for research undertaken overseas or involving information from other countries, also comply with all legislation of such countries covering research activities.

o. Support ANU in the investigation of research misconduct.

2. Failure to comply with this Policy and the Code of Research Conduct may be grounds for disciplinary action. Guidance on compliance and interpretation of this Policy and the Code of Research Conduct can be obtained from a network of College Research Integrity Advisors.

3. The ANU Procedure – Research Misconduct and Serious Research Misconduct sets out the process for handling complaints or allegations of research misconduct. The University has appointed the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Innovation) as the Designated person to receive initial complaints or allegations of research misconduct under the procedure.