



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

Adelaide Health Technology Assessment (AHTA)

Ethics and Research Consulting

Adelaide Health Technology Assessment (AHTA) sits within the School of Public Health at the University of Adelaide (<https://www.adelaide.edu.au/ahta/>). It undertakes evidence-based assessments of health interventions to inform policy and practice. It provides health technology assessment (HTA) services and biostatistical and data management services to a range of clients outside the University, especially government departments and agencies across Australia.

AHTA is now expanding its services to Ethics and Research Consulting.

The service is led by Dr Drew Carter, Research Fellow (Ethics) (<https://researchers.adelaide.edu.au/profile/drew.carter>). Dr Carter has conducted ethics research and teaching in the School of Public Health since 2009 and has led the teaching of ethics to the University's medical students since 2015. He is a deputy member of the SA Health Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).

Two services are available.

1. **Ethics Consulting** is available to researchers who want intensive support in thinking through ethical issues. This could be most valuable prior to submitting a HREC application or after being denied HREC approval. Advice would be offered on the following. What are the potential ethical issues? How does the research stand in relation to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research*? How might the research be better designed to deal with the ethical issues? Does the research need HREC approval?

HRECs exist in part to provide this advice, but resource constraints can stop them from engaging with researchers intensively. Dr Carter can discuss your research with you to collaboratively scope out the potential ethical issues. He can provide detailed advice on the ethical issues, on how the research might be adapted to address them, on whether an HREC application is needed, and on how your HREC application should be framed. He can review your HREC application to ensure that the ethical ideas are expressed clearly and precisely. All this will increase the quality of your research and HREC application, so the probability of HREC approval should increase.

2. **Integrated Research Support** is a more comprehensive service that includes advice on research fundamentals, including research design, methods, and ethical issues. Integrated support of this kind is rare. AHTA is well placed to offer it, since AHTA employs experts in ethics, pharmaceutical and health care evaluation, health economics, biostatistics, and data management. AHTA's Director, Professor Tracy Merlin, will supervise the integrated support. It could be especially valuable to researchers designing clinical trials, for example. AHTA can also advise on research involving qualitative and deliberative methods, since Dr Carter has research experience in these and close links with other experts in the School of Public Health and beyond. Your research design, methods and handling of ethical issues should all improve, so the probability of securing research funding and HREC approval should increase.

Rates for University clients: \$85.00/hour or \$605.00/day

Rates for external clients: \$115.00/hour or \$805.00/day

Reduced rates are negotiable for large projects.

For more information:

Contact Dr Drew Carter at drew.carter@adelaide.edu.au or on (08) 8313 6020.



CRICOS PROVIDER 00123M