

## 1.13 RESEARCH

### POLICY

Neami is a committed learning organisation and therefore constantly reflects, reviews, assesses and evaluates service practice. The organisation has a willingness and enthusiasm to engage in research activities which will improve the evidence base for our service delivery and improve consumer outcomes as a result.

### PROCEDURE

Neami has developed a Research Framework to guide the research undertaken by Neami and involvement of Neami consumers and/or staff in outside research projects. Neami Research Committee will ensure all research follows the steps set out in the framework. This committee ensures safe, equitable, appropriate and ethical decisions are made about how Neami undertakes research activities.

All research, which Neami is partner to, will:

- Have an aim of improved service delivery to consumers
- Be respectful of consumers/staff involved in the project
- Ensure adequate information is available to ensure consumers/staff can make an informed judgement to be involved
- Maintain at all times that consumer involvement is voluntary
- Ensure confidentiality of all consumer/staff details in accordance with the Privacy and Confidentiality Policy.
- Guarantee consumers/staff are supported through their involvement in research
- Fully report back to consumers/staff about the research results

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

Neami Research Framework

Research Approval Procedures

Research Approval Checklist

## RESEARCH APPROVAL PROCEDURES

This procedure applies to all proposed research projects involving consumers and staff of Neami, whether conducted internally or by external researchers. The approval procedure aims to ensure that any ethical issues associated with a research project have been identified and addressed, and in particular that the rights and dignity of staff and consumers. The procedure will also ensure coordination and monitoring of research under way so that information can be used across the organisation, findings can be used to improve practice and staff and consumers are protected from being “over-researched”.

---

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles guide the consideration of applications for research at Neami:

- Priority will be given to projects which respond to issues identified by consumers and those which aim to build knowledge about supporting consumers to live in their community of choice. .
- Where appropriate research designs maintain an open and participatory process throughout..
- Research designs are ethical and maintain high quality standards.
- Research designs should consider meaningful involvement of participants including consumers.
- Research findings are effectively disseminated throughout the organisation and the Mental Health sector more generally.
- Research designs reflect Neami’s values.

---

### STEP BY STEP

People wishing to conduct research are encouraged to contact the Neami Manager of Service Development or the Research Officer for initial feedback on their proposal

A formal request to conduct research must be submitted to the Neami Research Officer using the Research Approval Checklist.

The Research Officer will ensure the research has support from the relevant program/services and that it is consistent with Neami’s Guiding Research Principles. The Research Officer will then develop a recommendation to the Research Committee

Generally final approval must be received by the Neami Research Committee before a project can commence. Where there are time constraints, research proposals will be circulated to academic members of the committee for comment. Following consideration by the CEO, interim approval may be granted which would be then ratified at the next Research Committee meeting.

The Research Officer will notify the researcher of the outcome of the meeting and where approval has been granted, negotiate the practical aspects of implementation.

A register of research projects will be maintained and all researchers are expected to make their results available to the organisation upon completion of their research.

