

Low Risk Review

If a trial meets the criteria it can be submitted for low risk review. These trials can be approved without tabling at a subcommittee or HREC meeting. Trials are submitted to the RGU and to two HREC reviewers for review. Applications for low risk review can be submitted at any time.

Criteria for low risk review

Low risk research is defined in the National Statement as “research in which the only foreseeable risk is one of discomfort”. “Discomforts include, for example, minor side effects of medication, the discomforts related to measuring blood pressure and anxiety induced by an interview.” Further information about low risk review can be found in chapters 2.1 and 5.1 of the National Statement.

Low risk review is not available for proposals involving:

- Interventions and therapies, including clinical and non-clinical trials, and innovations
- Human genetics
- Human stem cells
- Women who are pregnant and the human foetus
- People highly dependent on medical care who may be unable to give consent
- People with a cognitive impairment, an intellectual disability, or a mental illness
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- People who may be involved in illegal activities
- Sensitive personal or cultural issues; or
- Vulnerable people, including, but not limited to, children, non-English speaking participants, persons under a legal or other disability, persons who are not competent to provide informed consent and persons over the age of 65
- Low risk review is not available for any research proposal in which any member of the Committee is involved in any capacity.