

Launch of the HREA across SA Health and NMA jurisdictions

What is the HREA?

The Human Research Ethics Application (HREA) form is a new ethics application form developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The HREA replaces the National Ethics Application Form (NEAF).

Where can I use the HREA?

The HREA should be used for a full research ethics submission to a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) at a South Australian public health organisation. The HREA must be used for any multi-jurisdiction research application where ethical approval is being sought under the National Mutual Acceptance (NMA) system.

When can I use the HREA?

From 1 September 2017* you can create a HREA using [Online Forms](#). From 1 September 2017 you can no longer create a new NEAF using Online Forms.

**Note: launch date is dependent on NHMRC issuing a final notification of the HREA licence to the provider of Online Forms.*

Can I still use the SA Health Low and Negligible Risk (LNR) research application form?

Yes. For a low and negligible risk research project taking place at a SA Health organisation, the SA Low and Negligible Risk (LNR) application form may continue to be used instead of the HREA. Please discuss the project with the HREC administrative officer before completing the LNR form.

What about existing NEAFs?

If you created a NEAF before 1 September 2017 on Online Forms, you will still be able to complete the form, upload supporting documents, electronically authorise and submit the application. You can still create site specific assessment (SSA) forms attached to a NEAF.





If you have recently submitted a NEAF that is undergoing ethical review, you can use Online Forms to respond to information requests from the reviewing ethics committee and to create SSAs.

Legacy information (old NEAFs) will remain in the Online Forms system. You can use an existing NEAF to create SSAs or to submit post-approval information.

How do I use the HREA?

When you log in to Online Forms, please select 'Create New Project' and then 'HREA'. The process for completing the Online Forms HREA is the same way as the Online Forms NEAF in terms of completing the form, uploading documents, creating linked SSAs, and submitting applications to the reviewing HREC/organisation.

Are there any changes to the research governance/SSA process?

There are no significant changes to the research governance/SSA application and submission process on Online Forms. Previously, some SSA questions were automatically populated from the NEAF. Some of these questions will no longer be pre-populated due to the differences in questions within the HREA.

What about SSAs linked to an existing NEAF?

Every SSA has an unbreakable link to the ethics application form from which it was created. SSAs that were created from a NEAF stay linked to that form. From an existing NEAF, SSAs can be created, completed and submitted post-implementation of the HREA.

Can I convert a NEAF into a HREA?

No. The NEAF, HREA and LNR form are separate ethics application forms; you cannot convert one form into another.

I created a HREA on the NHMRC website – what can I do?

The Online Forms website should be used to complete and submit a HREA to a SA Health HREC. If you have created the ethics application on the hrea.gov website, please speak to your organisation's research office in the first instance for further advice. The Online Forms Helpdesk can provide assistance on how to transfer the form if required.

Help and support

Assistance and feedback on the HREA:

- > Contact the NHMRC if you require assistance or wish to provide feedback on the HREA specifically (02 6217 9902 or email help@hrea.gov.au).

Technical problems and assistance with Online Forms:

- > Contact the Online Forms Helpdesk if you experience any technical issues using Online Forms and require further assistance (02 9037 8404 or email helpdesk@infonetica.net)

Ethics submission questions

- > For general ethics submission questions, please contact the appropriate [SA Health HREC](#).

For more information

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