



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

# Department of Health Western Australia Human Research Ethics Committee

**Project Summaries for Approved Proposals**

January to March 2018 Quarter

## Project summaries for proposals approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee – January to March 2018 quarter.

The material contained in this document is made available to assist researchers, institutions and the general public in searching for projects that have ethics approval from the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee (DOH HREC). It contains lay description/summaries available for the January to March 2018 quarter.

<b>Project Title</b>	Defining and defeating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage in breast cancer survival		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Associate Professor Andrew Redfern		
<b>Institution</b>	Fiona Stanley Hospital		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 January 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2020
<p>Breast cancer deaths in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are double that of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Studies looking at age, stage at diagnosis, patient remoteness, and access to medical services only explain a fraction of this disadvantage. This project will look at a large range of factors relating to the breast cancers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women get and how they are treated, any of which could worsen survival.</p> <p>The study will include all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women diagnosed in Western Australia after 2001 as well as remoteness matched non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Medical records and other data related to each person's therapy will be obtained. Archival cancer samples will be collected that are no longer needed for diagnostic purposes and tested for: (1) specific cancer sub-type types; (2) cancer specific genetic aberrations; and (3) immune infiltration and activation markers. Also, normal tissue (surrounding cancer tissue in archival specimens) will be tested for alterations in genes that impact the effects of anti-cancer drugs.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	The WA Data Linkage System infrastructure project		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Ms Janine Alan		
<b>Institution</b>	Department of Health		
<b>Start Date</b>	14 March 2018	<b>Finish Date</b>	ongoing
<p>This project aims to establish ethical approval for the routine "infrastructure" linkages, geocoding processes and associated "value adding" processes undertaken via the WA Data Linkage System. These routine linkages and related processes are undertaken to enable ready access to up-to-date linked data, in order to support approved research, policy development, planning and evaluation of services.</p>			

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