

Guidelines for researchers

Researchers who wish to contact occupational therapists on the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand/Te Poari Whakaora Ngangahau o Aotearoa (OTBNZ) register, or access data which OTBNZ holds about registrants, need to provide the OTBNZ with the information listed below. These requirements are based on the [National Ethical Standards. Health and Disability Research and Quality Improvement](#) (2019) and to ensure the request sits within the OTBNZ legal mandate under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003). The National Ethical Standards apply to all health and disability research and quality improvement activities “whether or not research or quality improvement activities require review by an ethics committee” (p.27).

The OTBNZ wishes to support research and quality improvement activity but retains the right to decline requests. The OTBNZ primary business activities will always be prioritised over facilitating external requests for support for research.

The OTBNZ holds a list of practitioners who have indicated they are happy to receive information about research. Requests for participation in research is therefore not sent to all practitioners on the register. No personal information about practitioners is provided to the researcher.

To make a request for OTBNZ support in a research project the following information must be emailed to enquiries@otboard.org.nz

Aotearoa New Zealand research

1. Copy of ethical approval for the project from an appropriate ethics committee **OR** explanation why this has not been obtained
2. Participant information sheet **AND/OR** project protocol/design
3. Clear instructions for OTBNZ:
 - timeline to meet your data collection requirements
 - what data you wish to collect for statistical analysis (e.g. dates, opening rates, email recipient numbers)
 - how you would like the information communicated (e.g. social media, bulk email, website notice)

International research

The National Ethical Standards (2019) have been written to reflect the bicultural status of Aotearoa New Zealand and the legal foundation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Hence the values of Māori¹, the tangata whenua of Aotearoa New Zealand, have been woven into the fabric of the guidelines.

All research in New Zealand is of interest to Māori. All studies may produce benefits for Māori, but may also present risks of harm. All research has the potential to support Māori achieve their

¹ Māori are the indigenous people of Aotearoa New Zealand. Globally, Nations across the world are increasingly recognising indigenous rights; key guideline documents on this subject emphasise self-determination; the protection of heritage, indigenous knowledge, plants and genetic material; and the right for indigenous people to ‘maintain and strengthen their distinct political, economic, social and cultural characteristics’ (as stated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).

aspirations. All researchers in New Zealand therefore must consider the degree to which they can contribute to improving Māori health outcomes (p.38).

Internationally recognised values of bioethics, sit alongside the Māori values. International researchers need to demonstrate a clear understanding of these ethical principles: "Any international collaborative research project that involves researchers in New Zealand or its territories is subject to these standards" (p. 24).

To ensure these standards have been considered and met, requests for support from OTBNZ for international research projects must provide:

1. A copy of appropriate ethical approval from an institutional ethical committee or equivalent body
2. Written evidence which demonstrates how the [Aotearoa New Zealand National Ethical Standards](#) (2019) have been considered and incorporated into the research.

NOTE: This evidence needs to be clearly linked to the ethical principles and indigenous rights of tangata whenua in Chapters 2 & 3 of the standards.

3. Participant information sheet **AND/OR** project protocol/design which includes how the research has been designed to be safe and appropriate for the Aotearoa New Zealand context
4. Clear instructions for OTBNZ:
 - timeline to meet your data collection requirements
 - what data you wish to collect for statistical analysis (e.g. dates, opening rates, email recipient numbers)
 - how you would like the information communicated (e.g. social media, bulk email, website notice)

Published on 9 September 2020