# 11 Research Ethics and Integrity

Version 1.0

Scope: WCA directors, personnel, associates and subcontractors, as applicable to their work.

## Purpose

Protect participants and maintain credible, responsible research practice.

## Policy commitment

Research must respect autonomy, confidentiality, fairness and integrity. Fabrication, falsification and plagiarism are prohibited.

## Implementation

Prepare a protocol, risk assessment, participant information and appropriate consent arrangements. Obtain required independent ethics and local permissions before data collection. Use proportionate methods, secure data and transparent analysis; disclose funding and conflicts.

## Reporting and accountability

Provide withdrawal arrangements and report adverse events or integrity concerns through agreed channels. Correct material errors and distinguish commissioned findings from client preferences. Do not imply university ethics approval or affiliation without authorisation.