

## Griffith University's Research Integrity Advisers

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## Overview

Griffith University has appointed a small number of experienced researchers to serve as Research Integrity Advisers (RIA). The RIA network is a source of collegiate advice to the University's staff and students on research integrity matters. They have no role in the conduct of reviews of alleged breaches of the Australian/Griffith Codes but they can be a valuable source of advice on good practices and strategies to avoid research integrity problems/disputes, also as to whether a situation appears to be a breach/research misconduct, and about the University's review arrangements.

This Resource Sheet should be read along with the [University's other RIR Sheets](#) (the content of which is not repeated here).

## National guidelines

The national reference standard for research integrity is the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) (2007). Sections 10 and 11 of the [Australian Code](#) describe the appointment and role of RIAs. **The described role is limited to advising (potential) complainants and respondents of alleged breaches/research misconduct.**

## University policy

The University has implemented, and clarified our implementation of, the [Australian Code](#) with the release of the [Griffith University Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#). **Griffith University's RIAs have a wider more constructive role that is focused upon research practice across the University.**

## A positive and collegiate role

The University's research integrity arrangements are based upon the conviction that the most effective and productive approach to research integrity is to treat it as a research culture issue. Consequently, in addition to advising complainants and respondents Griffith University has elected to give our RIA network a wider, more positive and collegiate role that includes:

- Being a source of practical advice to all Griffith University researchers on good research practice, strategies to avoid common problems, and ideas for establishing positive collaborative research agreements.
- Being a source of advice to Heads of Element and Deans Research.
- Assisting in the delivery of briefings and the facilitation/co-presentation of professional development/capacity-building workshops on research integrity.



**Web site**

**On the site you will find:**

A link to the Australian Code

A link to the Griffith Code

The Information Sheet series

Links to animal ethics and welfare resources

Links to human research ethics resources

Other resources

Contacts

Further resources are being developed so check this site regularly

www.griffith.edu.au/research/research-support  
select 'Research Integrity'

- Contributing to the University’s development of practical resources, policies and processes.

This wider role is discussed in the sections below.

**Source of advice to researchers**

The current network of RIAs provides at least one RIA in each Group and on each campus. Any Griffith University researcher (staff and students) can consult an RIA. A list of RIAs and their contact details are in the left hand sidebar below and can be accessed [here](#).

Common matters about which an RIA might be consulted include advice with regard to:

- the interpretation/practical application of a provision of the [Griffith Code](#);
- good practice with regard to a provision of the [Griffith Code](#);
- positive and practical strategies to avoid common problems;
- suggested strategies to resolve a discord between collaborators (so as to avoid the discord becoming a dispute/complaint);
- whether a situation is potentially a breach of the [Griffith Code](#) or potentially research misconduct; and
- the conduct of formal reviews of alleged breaches/research misconduct.

Even though researchers are urged to consult an RIA in their own Group it may be necessary (e.g. because of availability at the time) to contact an RIA from another Group.

An RIA will expect an enquirer to have already consulted the [Griffith Code](#) and the relevant [Research Integrity Resource Sheets](#). In the case of students an RIA will expect both the supervisor and student to approach them (**supervisors are expected to mentor and support their students with regard to research integrity matters – see RIRS 06**).

**Source of advice for Deans Research and Heads of Element**

Deans Research and Heads of Element can consult an RIA in their Group. Common matters about which an RIA might be consulted include advice with regard to:

- the interpretation/practical application of a provision of the [Griffith Code](#);
- the number and type of research integrity queries from the Group/Element’s researchers;
- the conduct of awareness/professional development/capacity building activities within the Group/Element;



Griffith University's RIAs

## Research Integrity Advisers

Arts, Education and Law

Professor Andrew Brown,  
Queensland College of Art  
P: 3735 6252  
E: [andrew.r.brown@](mailto:andrew.r.brown@griffith.edu.au)

Professor Greer Johnson,  
Griffith Institute for  
Educational Research,  
P: 3735 5683  
E: [g.johnson@](mailto:g.johnson@griffith.edu.au)

Professor Paul Tacon,  
School of Humanities,  
P: 5552 9074  
E: [p.tacon@](mailto:p.tacon@griffith.edu.au)

Business

Professor John Kane,  
School of Government and  
International Relations,  
P: 3735 5325  
E: [j.kane@](mailto:j.kane@griffith.edu.au)

Health

Professor Elizabeth  
Kendall  
School of Human Services  
and Social Work,  
P: 3382 1202  
E: [e.kendall@](mailto:e.kendall@griffith.edu.au)

Associate Professor  
Eleanor Milligan  
School of Medicine,  
P: 5678 0319  
E: [e.milligan@](mailto:e.milligan@griffith.edu.au)

Science, Environment,  
Engineering and  
Technology

Professor Rod Connolly,  
School of Environment,  
P: 5552 8614  
E: [r.connolly@](mailto:r.connolly@griffith.edu.au)

Professor Denis Crane,  
School of School of Natural  
Sciences,  
P: 3735 7253  
E: [d.crane@](mailto:d.crane@griffith.edu.au)

- feedback on existing, or ideas for new, resources or policies;
- the approach to be taken when trying to locally mediate a dispute between two Griffith University researchers;
- whether a situation is potentially a breach of the [Griffith Code](#) or potentially research misconduct; and
- whether to escalate a matter for central review.

## Role in professional development

As noted above (see **A positive and collegiate role**) research integrity is most usefully approached as a research culture consideration. Research integrity is not 'just' a matter of complying with externally imposed rules or only the purview of staff in the Office for Research. Instead it is the responsibility of all Griffith University researchers and it should be central to the design, conduct and reporting the results of all quality research. RIAs have a role with regard to the following awareness/professional development activities:

- **Element meetings** – Delivering a 10-15 minute briefing on the University's approach to research integrity.
- **(Co-presenting) Workshops** – Co-presenting a 45-90 minute interactive workshop on research integrity for HDRs, new supervisors, ECRs and researchers who are 'new to Griffith University'.
- **(Co-presenting) Roundtable** – Co-facilitating a 30-80 minute roundtable in an Element on a specific research integrity challenge/issue/frustration.

Course convenors may also wish to seek advice from an RIA on incorporating research integrity as an element of a research methodology tutorial/lecture.

## Role in policy/resource development

The production of practical, useful and relevant resource material is a key element of a positive approach to research integrity. RIAs have an important role in commenting upon and helping refine new materials and to identify the need for new resource material.

Griffith University periodically reviews and updates the [Griffith Code](#). RIAs play an important in facilitating communication during these reviews to ensure the document remains useful, relevant and effective for all research across the University.

Researchers with feedback/ideas on resource material/the [Griffith Code](#) should contact an RIA to discuss them.

## OR Contacts

### Office for Research

#### Manager, Research Ethics and Integrity

Rick Williams  
ext: 54375  
rick.williams@griffith.edu.au

#### Policy Officer, Human Research Ethics

ext: 58043

#### Policy Officer, Animal Research Ethics

Dr Amanda Fernie  
ext: 56618  
a.femie@griffith.edu.au

#### Systems and Support Officer

Ext: 54855  
research-ethics@griffith.edu.au

## Privacy and confidentiality

Researchers can consult an RIA on a confidential basis, but the RIA may need to alert a policy officer in the Office for Research if one of the following applies:

- when a matter relates to a corporate exposure for the University (e.g. a research output being based upon fabricated data);
- if the situation relates to the safety of animals/humans/the environment; or
- if the matter is otherwise very serious.

The RIA will advise you if it appears the matter necessitates her/him notifying the Office for Research.

Even though potential breaches of the [Griffith Code](#) can be communicated to an RIA on a confidential basis this may limit what can be done with that allegation (e.g. it might be impossible to ask for a response from the other researcher without supplying them the kind of information that would enable the complainant to be identified).

Unless a person making an enquiry asks the RIAs not to, the RIA will make a file note about the consultation. Such file notes may be discoverable (e.g. by a right to information search).

## Appointment

The Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, in consultation with the Pro Vice Chancellors, appoints around nine experienced researchers to serve as RIAs for Griffith University research. Appointments will provide for Group and campus coverage.

## Support for RIAs

Griffith University's RIAs perform an essential academic leadership role and serve as a core component of the University's collegiate approach to research integrity. The Office for Research provides support for the work of Griffith University's RIAs. This support includes organising professional development workshops, producing template materials and resources, and giving them advice. Staff members from the Office for Research co-present some Element research integrity workshops (see **Role in professional development** above) and conducts the HDR supervisor accreditation workshop for Griffith Graduate Research School each semester.

