

Ethical concerns in suicide research: The views of researchers and research ethics committees

Presenters: Ms Emma Barnard, Ms Georgia Dempster, Dr Karl Andriessen

Tuesday 27 October 12.30pm - 1.30pm via Zoom

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Ethically sound research is crucial to improve the prevention of suicidal behaviour and to better help people affected by suicide. However, little is known about how researchers and ethics committees deal with suicide-related study applications. Hence, our team at the Centre for Mental Health embarked on a series of studies to investigate the experiences of Australian (study 1), and international researchers (study 2) in obtaining ethics approval for their suicide-related studies and how they dealt with the concerns they received from research ethics committees. Next, we investigated the experiences of representatives of human research ethics committees at Australian universities (study 3).

In this seminar we will present the findings from the three studies and draw important implications for researchers regarding preparing suicide-related study applications, as well as important considerations for sustained collaboration between researchers and research ethics committees. Finally, we will outline our next steps in this research project, which will result in a resource for researchers who may apply for suicide-related studies.

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Emma Barnard

Emma is a PhD candidate and Academic Associate in the Centre for Health Equity, where she co-coordinates the core MPH subject Qualitative Research Methods in Public Health. Her research interests include adolescent and women's health, qualitative research methods, and health and research ethics.



Georgia Dempster

Georgia is a suicide prevention Research Assistant at the Centre for Mental Health. She is also completing her PhD in the fields of public health and science communication. Before working in mental health, Georgia worked for 5 years in research ethics within a public health research context.



Dr Karl Andriessen

Karl Andriessen, PhD, is a Senior Research Fellow and NHMRC ECF in the Centre for Mental Health. He has a broad interest in suicide prevention research, with a major focus on postvention and grief after suicide and other traumatic deaths.

