

Freedom of Intellectual Inquiry Policy

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SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This policy provide direction on free intellectual inquiry at Australasian College of Health and Wellness (ACHW). Free intellectual inquiry refers to the freedom for students and staff to explore their own ideas and to challenge in a thoughtful manner the assumptions and evidence which underpin the academic content of their programs of study. This policy aims to provide the freedom of sharing ideas and views while highlighting that students and staff should respect the provisions of relevant legislation, the rules and policies of the ACHW and the accepted ethical practices of the higher education community in Australia.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and staff at ACHW.

SECTION 2 – POLICY AND PROCEDURE

PRINCIPLES

Students and staff must have the right to exercise their own professional judgment in engaging in teaching, learning and research without undue interference while understanding that free intellectual inquiry carries responsibilities to exercise professional care and competence in teaching, learning and research and must not adversely affect the ability of others to engage freely in teaching, learning, research and debate.

FREEDOM OF INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY

All academic students and staff at ACHW have a right to engage in free intellectual inquiry and ACHW encourages students and academic staff to actively engage in free intellectual inquiry.

Students

ACHW encourages students to explore alternate ideas and theories.

ACHW encourages that students should critically question teachings where they believe alternate arguments based on evidence exists.

Students are also encouraged to engage in debate with academic staff and other students which creates robust discussion and the sharing of thoughts and experiences.

Staff

ACHW strongly encourages academic staff to actively engage in free intellectual inquiry where academic staff are encouraged to:

- pursue critical and open inquiry and to freely discuss, teach, assess, develop curricula, publish and research in their area of discipline
- engage in scholarly activity which enables them to maintain knowledge of current developments within their area of discipline
- encourage and engage in critical and independent thinking amongst peers and students
- pursue, generate and transmit knowledge through research, study, discussion, writing and publication publicly debate and express opinions about issues and ideas related to their area of discipline
- participate in professional and representative bodies

SECTION 3 – REFERENCE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS

Word/Term	Definition

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document name	Document type	Location

SECTION 4 – DOCUMENT DETAILS

POLICY OWNER

Name:	Policy on Freedom of Intellectual Inquiry
Endorsed by:	Director ACHW
Approved by:	Head of Compliance
Date Approved:	10.07.2017
Implementation Owner	Head of Quality Assurance
Maintenance Owner	Head of Quality Assurance
Review Date	15.01.2021

CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Approval date	Approved by	Approved by	Change
V1.0	10.07.2017	Head of Compliance	Director ACHW	Initial document review after purchase of MHMHE
V2.0		Approved by Academic Board on 10.03.2020		General review