

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY POLICY

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1. OVERVIEW

The Australasian College of Health and Wellness (ACHW) (The College) is committed to nurturing a culture of scholarship throughout the academic staff of the College.

As stated in the *Academic Freedom and Free Intellectual Enquiry Policy* the College expects its academic staff to exhibit a strong commitment to scholarship and the professional expectations of their academic disciplines. The pursuit of knowledge through intellectual inquiry is highly valued as a mark of institutional excellence.

Scholarship is demonstrated through a range of scholarly activity undertaken by the College's academic staff and is overseen by the Academic Board and supported by the Director (ACHW) and Course Coordinator.

A commitment to scholarship is a joint responsibility shared by individual staff members, managers and supervisors, and the College. Individual staff members are encouraged to seek appropriate opportunities for scholarship both within the College and externally.

2. PURPOSE

The Scholarship Policy specifies the principles for engaging in scholarship that are directly relevant to informing both the content and methods of teaching at ACHW. This Policy provides a framework for the planning, approval, resourcing, review, and integration of scholarly activities to ACHW's operations.

The requirements for scholarship have been set and approved by ACHW governing bodies to ensure the integrity, currency and relevance of ACHW courses by providing that its academic staff have an informed and advanced understanding of relevant disciplines and how they are taught, learned and applied in practice. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Scholarship and Professional Development Procedure.

3. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all academic staff, permanent, fixed-term, full-time, part-time or casual, and all staff involved in scholarly activity decisions.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1. ACHW is committed to support, promote and reward ongoing engagement in scholarly activity by all academic staff.

- 4.2. All academic staff are expected to engage in scholarship that informs their teaching, contributes to the design and delivery of ACHW courses and contributes to their discipline.

5. PRINCIPLES

ACHW is committed to the following principles that underpin this policy:

- 5.1. All academic staff are aware of developments in relevant disciplines, in professional practice, and in learning and teaching practices to build capacity for ACHW's current, emerging, and future educational needs.
- 5.2. Scholarly activities are directly related to the disciplines or field of education taught associated with ACHW courses or to the design, delivery or evaluation of those courses.
- 5.3. All academic staff are encouraged, supported, and adequately resourced to undertake scholarly activities.
- 5.4. Scholarship outcomes are adequately shared, integrated into The College's operations, reported and recognised.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1. The Academic Board:
 - approves the Scholarly Activity Policy and associated procedures
 - oversee ethical conduct and responsible practice in learning, teaching and scholarship
 - approves plans, budgets and strategies relating to scholarship and the creation of an institutional climate of scholarship
 - receives reports about scholarly activities.
- 6.2. The Learning and Teaching Committee is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and making recommendations for improvement on, scholarship and associated professional development plans, budget and strategies.
- 6.3. The Director, Learning and Teaching (or delegated officer) is the owner of this Policy and is responsible for:

- developing strategies to support and sustain scholarship, both at the institutional level and at the level of individual staff
 - making appropriate financial support for scholarly activities available
 - promoting opportunities for engaging in scholarly activity
 - organising institutional activities to support scholarship.
- 6.4. Supervisors will ensure scholarly activities are regularly discussed as part of an academic staff member's performance review and professional development plan.
- 6.5. Academic staff are responsible for:
- demonstrating current knowledge and an ongoing engagement in, and contribution to, relevant disciplines and teaching practice through appropriate outcomes
 - awareness of disciplinary and teaching practice developments and using that knowledge to inform their learning and teaching
 - using scholarship outcomes to improve learning outcomes of students.