

Guidelines for cost recovery for Research Ethics

When researchers who are not employees of Murdoch engage in research, costs are incurred by the university. This includes the cost of the ethics application process and any follow-up or monitoring requirements.

Charges will be applied in the following situations:

1. Where the lead researcher, Chief Investigator, is not a Murdoch employee.
2. Where the Chief Investigator is an Adjunct or emeritus and where the project is funded through a private arrangement, a private consultancy or by a non-Murdoch entity and the funds are not administered through the Murdoch R&D offices.
3. Where the Chief Investigator is an Adjunct or emeritus and where the project is not funded, then the Manager of Research Ethics will decide whether a charge will be applied, having regard to the criteria for evaluating whether a charge is to be levied below.

Evaluating whether a charge is to be levied can include the following exceptions:

1. Where an external organisation uses Murdoch's ethics committee regularly (i.e. as their HREC or AEC), alternate arrangements to a charge per project can be negotiated as part of an overall contract.
2. Where there are long-standing arrangements between Murdoch and the researcher
3. Where a project is regarded as negligible or very low risk
4. Where a project is considered to be in Murdoch's interests

The Manager, Research Ethics or the Director, R&D will have discretion to adjust the charges or waive them completely.

Charges will be calculated and applied according to the following:

1. There is a non-refundable application fee.
2. There is a project charge reflecting the risk profile of the project, which is applied once the research is approved by the ethics committee.
 - a) For Human Research Ethics, project charges will be once only.
 - i) Charges for human research projects are based on a two-tiered system which reflects the policy of the HREC for defining low / high risk research; namely a lower charge for low risk and a higher charge for high risk will be applied.
 - b) For Animal Ethics, project charges will be annual, reflecting the additional requirements for monitoring, reporting etc.

- i) Charges for projects using animals are based on the following matrix, where each + reflects a tier of fee as reflected by 3 levels of risk.

Procedures	Animals	
	Low	high
	Low	+
High	++	+++

3. If Ethics Officers have to travel for monitoring etc, then additional cost recovery arrangements may also be required. These will generally be negotiated before the start of the project.
4. All fees and charges must be paid before ethics approval can be finalised.

Charges for 2008

The application fee will be \$500

Human ethics

Low risk will be \$500

High risk will be \$2,000

Animal ethics

Tier 1 will be \$500

Tier 2 will be \$2,000

Tier 3 will be \$5,000

In addition, the following reminder is given to all non-Murdoch researchers:

The Ethics Office reminds all non-Murdoch staff including adjuncts and emeriti that they need to ensure that all necessary insurances and legal arrangements are in place before commencing a project.