

HRC Ethics Committee

(May 2017)

Terms of Reference

Refer to HRC Act 1990 (Section 25)

Membership Composition

Section 26 of the HRC Act 1990 states:

1. *The members of the Ethics Committee shall comprise –*
 - (a) *The Chairperson of the Council or a member of the Council nominated from time to time by the Chairperson of the Council:*
 - (b) *Two persons to be appointed from time to time by the Council, both of whom shall have qualifications in science and one of whom shall be a member of the Council:*
 - (c) *Four other persons, not being members of the Council, to be appointed from time to time by the Council.*
2. *In appointing persons under subsection (1)(b) or subsection (1)(c) of this section, the Council shall have regard to the need among the members of the Ethics Committee for a diversity of knowledge and experience in relation to ethics, philosophy, law, theology, nursing, women’s health, patient advocacy, and tikanga Māori.*
3. *The Ethics Committee shall from time to time appoint one of its members to be the chairperson of the Ethics Committee.*

Term of Office

The HRC Act 1990 did not specify term. Members are appointed on the same 3 + 3 year basis as other committees (refer to HRC Council minutes November 1991).

Process for Appointment of Committee Members

The Committee Chair recommends a nominee for consideration by Council. The Chief Executive formally invites the proposed member recommended by the Committee and confirmed by Council (refer to Executive minutes August 1992).

HRC Ethics Committee sitting as an Appeals Committee

By written notice issued under s25(1)(h)(ii) of the Act on 24 September 2010, the Minister of Health authorised the HRC EC to undertake the additional function of considering appeals against decisions made by the Health and Disability Ethics Committees.

When hearing an appeal, the HRC EC may consult other persons and bodies pursuant to section 25(2) of the Act. Where the Chair or a quorum of HRC EC members believes there is insufficient expertise on the HRC EC to consider an appeal, the HRC EC will seek additional expert advice. Persons and bodies to be consulted under this provision will be identified by the Chair of the HRC EC in consultation with the HRC EC in order to obtain advice appropriate to the matter under review.

The HRC EC will seek appropriate Māori expertise when hearing appeals raising issues of concern to Māori.

Current Membership	Date Appointed	End of Term	Expertise	Location
Associate Professor Lynley Anderson (1c) (Chair: appointed November 2016)	09.2010	11.2018	Ethicist	Dunedin
Professor Parry Guilford (1a)	05.2017	05.2020	Science	Dunedin
Professor Gareth Jones CNZM (1b)	10.2016	10.2019	Science	Dunedin
Professor Lesley McCowan CNZM (1b)	03.2014	03.2020	Clinician	Auckland
Ms Catherine Ryan (1c)	10.2013	10.2019	Lawyer	Auckland
Dr Barry Smith * (1c)	09.2009	03.2018	Community	Rotorua
Professor Huia Tomlins-Jahnke* (1c)	12.2011	12.2017	Māori research	Palmerston North

*Māori representatives

Secretary:	Ms Lana Lon
Quorum:	4
Meetings per annum:	3-4
Explanatory Notes	Ethics Committee review project grant applications from centres where ethics committees do not meet the required standards (refer to HRC Council minutes June 1991)
Reports to:	Council
Established by:	HRC Act 1990
Reviewed:	
Disbanded:	