Ethics Studio
Duty of Care – Researcher Responsibilities

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Duty of Care

Researchers have an obligation to avoid acts or omissions, which could be reasonably foreseen to injure or harm other people. Involves anticipating risks for your participants and taking care to prevent them from coming to harm.

• Non Maleficence
• Protection from harm
• Beneficence
Identify potential risks and develop a management strategy

• Work in partnership with schools and organisations to develop a protocol for duty of care before research commences

• Ensure there is informed consent (participants are aware of risks and consequences)
Teacher Burnout/intention to leave

• What research questions are you asking? Do you want to learn about why employees intend to leave a workplace or profession?

• What happens if teachers are reporting serious and distressing incidents, for example with their senior colleagues?

• Do you endeavor to protect the identity of these research participants? What if you hear of an abusive supervisor from multiple sources at the one workplace or a breach of a law?
Depression/Suicide Ideation

- What questions are you asking the participants? Are these sufficient to make a determination about risk of harm to self or others?
- What is the vulnerability of the participants?
- What do you do with the information?
- Who do you report it to, how do you report it, how much information?
Bullying

• What questions are you asking? Is the study specifically about bullying? Or are you observing, for example, teacher classroom behavior and you inadvertently observe bullying?
• What do you do with this information?
• Who do you report it to?
• How can you manage this type of situation before it arises?
Researcher Safety

• Where are you collecting information?
• Who are you collecting data from?
• Who is collecting the data?
• What safety measures can you put in place?
PLS

- Inform participants about the possible risks and the proposed management plan.
- Include professional help service details that are relevant and readily accessible.
- Include UoM ethics contact details.
• **On the Plain Language Statement (PLS) only:**
  
  – Ensure that the following statement matches, as per PLS requirements outlined in Item 14 of the application form:

  "This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project."
MGSE Ethics Studios

All the remaining are scheduled in Room 514/515, 100 Leicester Street at 11:00am and BYO Laptop for:

• Thursday 16 August
• Wednesday 12 September
• Tuesday 16 October
• Wednesday 21 November
• Monday 10 December
Thank You!