

Process and Approval of Health Research to be Implemented

- . All applications for the conduct of health research use the National Health Ethics and Research Committee (NHERC) Application Form (Form R1). Applications are signed by the Lead Investigator and where appropriate the Head of Department of the institution hosting the research. Relevant support documents include ethical approval from the host institutions ethics committee and institutional support letters.
- . Following approval by the National Health Ethics and Research Committee (NHERC) it sends its recommended approval with copies of the applicant's signed Application Form (Form R1) to be further be an agenda of the National Health Development Committee Technical Sub-Committee (NHDCTech Sub-Committee). The NHDCTech Sub-Committee consists of Heads of Divisions of the Ministry of Health and chaired by the Director of Health. Should there be a further approval from this Committee the recommendation for approval is further forwarded to the National Health Development Committee (NHDC) whose members consist of the NHDCTech Sub-Committee and the Honorable Minister of Health as Chairperson. The NHDC may give final approval or refer any recommended approval to Cabinet.
- . There are no specified time frames for the informing of applicants to the status of their applications.
- . Foreign researchers may be required to pay a non/refundable research fee of one thousand Tongan Pa'angas.