



## Management of research data and primary materials

### Section 2: Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research

The responsible conduct of research requires that research data be retained for five years after the completion of the project or for as long as the interest and discussion persist following publication. At the end of a project research data may be all that remains of the research work (NHMRC et al 2007).

#### Scenario

For her PhD, a research student completed three studies examining parenting and experiences of childhood maltreatment. She conducted an online survey of over 2,000 community members. As part of her survey she collected the names and contact details of participants who agreed to participate in a follow-up interview. She interviewed over 100 of these participants, taped and transcribed these interviews, which resulted in pages of data. With these students' permission she was also able to access the files of these individuals held in the Department who manages child protection in the state. These datasets were provided under strict privacy conditions.

#### Points for discussion

1. Who owns each of the three datasets?
2. What should be stored from these datasets?
3. Who is responsible for storing these datasets?
4. What information from these datasets could be provided to other researchers?
5. What conditions should be placed on the provisions of these datasets?

National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Universities Australia. 2007. *Revision of the Joint NHMRC/AVCC Statement and Guidelines on Research Practice: Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, Canberra: Australian Government.

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