

Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

Information for academic/research staff and research students

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) of Charles Sturt University provides guidance and oversight to help ensure activities within University facilities using hazardous biological agents meet safety, ethical and professional standards as well as compliance with [Gene Technology Act \(2000\)](#) and associated Regulations.

All staff and students who will be conducting research or practical teaching that involves genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or potentially infectious and/or hazardous agents (including human blood and tissues), or who will be importing biological material, may be required to apply to CSU's Institutional Biosafety Committee for approval. [The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator \(OGTR\)](#) and the Act should be referred to when dealing with GMOs.

Prior to applying for Institutional Biosafety Committee approval you will need to develop a well-considered research proposal/protocol. You may need to:

- Seek review of the academic merit of your project;
- Complete all required risk assessments and safe work procedures;
- Consult with co-researchers/supervisors;
- Obtain necessary institutional approvals, including sign off from your supervisor if necessary;
- Procure any necessary external documents such as details of the organisms and vectors;
- Determine the timeline for the commencement of your research after approval.

Application to work with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

Work involving genetic manipulation or the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is regulated by the *Gene Technology Act 2000* and the *Gene Technology Regulations 2001 and amendments* through the national [Office of the Gene Technology Regulator \(OGTR\)](#). The legislative mandate of the [OGTR](#) is to “prevent harm to human health and safety and the environment by regulating use of GMOs in Australia”.

The IBC acts on behalf of the OGTR and the University to ensure that the Act, Regulations and guidelines are followed. It monitors all teaching and research proposals using GMO's and inspects all University facilities registered by the OGTR to store and handle them.

Application forms for Exempt and Notifiable Low Risk Dealings are available in the [Forms & Resources](#) section of the IBC website. For further clarification of dealing classes please consult the OGTR website.

Application to work with unscreened Human Biological Specimens

Projects and practical classes where unscreened human biological specimens are to be handled must seek approval from the IBC (screened specimens are those that have tested negative by serology/virology for syphilis, Hepatitis B and C, and HIV).

Applications can be made through the IBC by accessing the [Forms and Resources](#) section of the IBC website.

Confirmation and approvals from other compliance committees (for example the human research Ethics Committee) must accompany the application. Names and contact details of all involved on the project together with confirmation that required vaccination/serological testing for those workers has been cited and recorded.

Purchase/Acquire Micro-organisms of Risk Group 2 and above

When planning to purchase or acquire Micro-organisms of Risk Group 2 and above you need to submit the application form to the IBC for approval (this includes micro-organisms 'gifted' by other researchers or Institutions).

The [CSU Biosafety manual](#) can be accessed on the [IBC website](#).

To contact the IBC for further information email biosafety@csu.edu.au or call the Governance Officer on 02 69334322.