

Statistical Support for External Researchers

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the principles and procedures for providing statistical support to external researchers requesting access to data from ANZDATA. It aims to ensure transparency, data integrity, and equitable access while prioritising core registry operations.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all external researchers (academic, clinical, or industry) seeking statistical assistance or data analysis support from the registry for research purposes

3. Policy Details

3.1 Background

- In line with ANZDATA's mission, vision and values ANZDATA aims to work with stakeholders to improve the understanding of kidney disease and outcomes of treatment.
- ANZDATA provides advice on interpretation of data variables and study design as part of our routine assessment of data requests.
- ANZDATA contributors may develop relevant and valuable research questions but have insufficient skills and/or resources to undertake analysis using registry data.
- Due to limitations in statistician time and the priority to complete core business, the ability of ANZDATA to provide assistance with statistical analysis to external parties is limited. This document outlines the principles that guide how ANZDATA will assess requests for statistical assistance from external researchers.
- Researchers may be required to engage their own statisticians for complex or resource-intensive analyses.

3.2 Statistical Support Provision

- The primary tasks of statisticians employed by ANZDATA are to maintain the quality and accuracy of the dataset, produce high quality reports in a timely fashion, undertake analysis to fulfill ANZDATA's contractual requirements to funders, and extract data for independent auditing and research conducted by ANZDATA contributors.
- Decisions regarding the allocation of statistician time to assisting external researchers will be made by the ANZDATA Executive or may be delegated by the Executive to the Requests Manager

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Please note that ANZDATA is under no obligation to provide assistance with statistical analysis of datasets requested from the registry

Researchers requesting statistical assistance from ANZDATA are encouraged to provide information with their Data Request Form addressing the below criteria:

- Potential for the proposed research project to improve patient outcomes or address an important clinical or scientific question
- Resources available to the external researcher:
 - Priority will be given to researchers from smaller or geographically isolated units who may not have access to the academic supports available in tertiary centres and educational institutes
- Potential for research capacity building:
 - Priority will be given to researchers who may be able to conduct future independent research in an area of need
- Previous assistance provided to the researcher:
 - ANZDATA aims to support a broad range of researchers, and statistical assistance will be prioritised for researchers and units who have not previously received ANZDATA support

3.3 Data Management and Security

Provided that it does not compromise the tasks outlined in the ANZDATA Security Compliance Policy, statisticians employed by ANZDATA may also provide advice to, or perform analysis for, external researchers who are contributors to the Registry with the goal of facilitating quality epidemiological research and building research capacity in the nephrology and transplantation community under the following conditions:

- All data access must comply with privacy laws and registry governance.
- Data will be de-identified before release.
- Secure data transfer protocols must be followed.

3.4 Reporting and Publication

ANZDATA statisticians providing analysis for external researchers must approve all analyses prior to presentation or publication and their contribution to the work must be acknowledged, including with authorship in the case of peer reviewed publication. Additionally:

- ANZDATA must be acknowledged in all publications.
- Draft manuscripts should be shared with the registry prior to submission.
- Researchers must provide copies of final publications and reports.

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4. Exhibits/Appendices

N/A

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or following any significant changes in legislation, operational procedures, or governance structures

6. Document History

Version	Date	Description	Author
2019.1	17/01/2019	Creation	M. Sypek
2019.2	22/01/2019	Revision	M. Sypek
2025.1	05/08/2025	Reformatted document, updated Purpose, added scope, updated policy details, reformatted text into 3.1-3.4, added Review	L. Greenham