Research Policy

BACKGROUND

Safe Network' s mission is to be the leading provider of services to people with concerning, problematic and harmful sexual behaviour in the upper North Island. Maintaining a position of clinical leadership requires Safe Network to proactively encourage, initiate (where appropriate), monitor, engage with and consider research, and its implications for clinical practice.

POLICY

Safe Network is committed to supporting research in those areas relevant to the work of the Agency.

Consideration of any research proposal will take into account its relevance to the work of Safe Network, its client base and the wider HSB and social services sector; and its impacts on Safe Network's resources, including staff time and incidental costs.

The primary criterion for the Agency to engage in research is where the research will, or is likely to, produce findings that will inform the Agency's clinical or operational practice, and link to Safe Network's strategic priorities.

Secondary criteria are:

- Support for sector-wide initiatives that enhance or support sector partners.
- Support for the education, training and development of students or professionals in related fields.

Other factors to be considered include

- A clearly-defined research scope with linkage to literature;
- Impacts on operations including workflow and clients;
- Compliance with appropriate medico-legal, professional and ethical standards; e.g. privacy, consenting, Ethics Committee approval, etc. Research involving clients must have New Zealand-based Ethics approval; and
- The research outputs to be provided to Safe Network, e.g. reports, presentations and recommendations for clinical practice.

All research initiatives Safe Network engages with, both internally and externally-led, must result in a presentation of findings, conclusions and practice implications for Safe Network.

PROCESS

1. All requests for Safe Network's involvement in research proposals must include a completed Safe Network research application form. This requirement applies to both externally and internally-led research proposals.

2. The Application form will be submitted to the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive will consult with the Agency's lead clinical officer on all clinical research projects.

3. Where appropriate, such as when Safe Network is initiating the research, the advice of the Clinical Advisory Committee will be sought.

4. The applicant may be required to present their proposal to the Agency as part of this deliberation process.

5. Following consultation, the Chief Executive will make a decision as to whether Safe Network will participate in the proposed research, and if so, under what conditions.

Approved by Safe Network Board; 29 August 2016