

OHMR Research Ethics and Governance Metrics Program



Metrics Activity Report for NSW PHOs

01/02/2021

NSW Office for Health and Medical Research



Executive Summary

This report includes strategic and site level performance and compliance metrics that are collected by the Office for Health and Medical Research (OHMR) from NSW Public Health Organisations (PHOs) on studies authorised between 1st of January 2018 and 31st of December 2020. The performance of NSW PHOs on health and medical research are now reported four times a year, each covering a 3-month period.

Overall Performance Environment:

REGIS is the online platform used to manage ethics and governance applications for all NSW Public Health Organisations. OHMR has undertaken data validation activities to accurately represent research ethics and governance performance on this platform. It should be acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a direct impact on research office performance as reflected in the 2020 metrics.



METRIC 3: NSW HREC Submission Closing Date to NSW HREC Approval (using administrative clock)

NSW State Benchmark:

- The benchmark from the 2018/19 financial year onwards is for reviewing human research studies for NSW PHO HRECs within 45 calendar days.

All studies (greater than low risk) approved by the HREC with a final Decision Notification date between 1st of January 2020 and 31st of December 2020.

Selection Criteria Summary:

Study Type- "All", Current Decision- "Approved", Final Decision Notification Date- "within the period"

Total Time:

Total time is the measurement of the total, unadjusted time from the Submission Closing Date of the first meeting to which the application has been assigned, to when the final decision notification email is sent granting approval.

Metric Time:

Metric time is the calculated adjustments to the total time to account for processes where an application is worked on by both Research Office staff and the Researcher (that is, where a 'clock on/clock off' function is employed). These calculations determine whether applications are processed within the specified timeframes.

Summary for Metric 3:

Ethics review performance of NSW HRECs according to the <45-day benchmark for studies approved between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020 are shown in Table 1.

In NSW, 972 studies (greater than low risk pathway) were approved by an HREC with a final written Decision Notification Date (final clock stop date) between 01/01/2020 and 30/06/2020. Of these applications, 312 (32%) were classified as clinical trials (Table 2).

Table 1: The 45 calendar days benchmark for review and approval of human research ethics applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020.

Ethics Approval – All GLR research																				
LHD	Jan-Mar 2020				Apr-Jun 2020				Jul-Sept 2020				Oct-Dec 2020				2020 Total			
	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)
BLLBRY	13	92%	27	61	24	100%	9	70	18	89%	25	56	21	95%	24	60	76	94%	21	62
CINSW	11	100%	27	124	15	87%	40	127	13	85%	32	149	21	95%	28	79	60	92%	32	120
HNELHD	18	78%	37	102	28	86%	29	81	33	88%	31	87	31	97%	28	62	110	87%	31	83
ISLHD	10	10%	66	105	8	38%	47	98	6	67%	46	110	2	0%	69	211	26	29%	57	131
JHFMHN	0	-	-	-	1	0%	83	114	2	0%	91	298	1	100%	0	0	4	33%	58	138
NBMLHD	4	25%	56	92	7	57%	43	102	10	80%	35	67	5	100%	26	48	26	66%	40	77
NNSWLHD	2	50%	50	112	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	3	100%	18	65	5	75%	34	89
NSLHD	9	78%	36	125	10	90%	31	79	7	71%	34	117	13	92%	30	79	39	83%	33	100
SCHN	8	100%	30	116	9	100%	31	86	13	100%	27	85	13	100%	30	62	43	100%	29	87
SESLHD	14	0%	108	186	8	13%	128	237	12	8%	120	207	20	25%	102	195	54	11%	115	206
SLHD-CCD	14	93%	29	99	15	93%	24	114	13	100%	24	103	16	100%	22	96	58	97%	25	103
SLHD-RPA	22	95%	29	105	44	98%	21	75	51	98%	19	89	65	100%	15	70	182	98%	21	85
SVHN	10	60%	39	96	21	86%	32	82	21	95%	29	77	34	74%	37	83	86	79%	34	84
SWSLHD	16	75%	40	95	25	88%	30	75	22	64%	44	95	29	83%	36	86	92	77%	37	88
WNSWLHD	0	-	-	-	4	100%	26	114	6	83%	29	57	6	67%	39	63	16	83%	31	78
WSLHD	25	0%	85	138	13	38%	54	97	39	41%	58	116	18	78%	40	92	95	39%	59	111
TOTAL	176	61%	47	111	232	72%	42	103	266	71%	43	114	298	82%	34	84	972	71%	41	103

Table 2: The 45 calendar days benchmark for the review and approval of human research ethics clinical trial applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020.

Ethics Approval – Clinical Trials only																				
LHD	Jan-Mar 2020				Apr-Jun 2020				Jul-Sept 2020				Oct-Dec 2020				2020 Total			
	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)
BLLBRY	13	92%	27	61	24	100%	9	70	18	89%	25	56	21	95%	24	60	76	94%	21	62
CINSW	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	2	100%	28	52	2	100%	28	52
HNELHD	3	0%	103	206	6	67%	41	111	5	100%	19	82	6	100%	25	54	20	67%	47	113
ISLHD	1	0%	53	93	1	0%	58	150	1	100%	45	78	1	0%	46	106	4	25%	51	107
JHFMHN	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
NBMLHD	0	-	-	-	3	67%	38	101	2	50%	43	88	1	100%	21	38	6	72%	34	75
NNSWLHD	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
NSLHD	3	100%	33	81	2	50%	53	153	4	50%	39	113	2	100%	23	129	11	75%	37	119
SCHN	3	100%	27	76	1	100%	33	44	7	100%	27	105	3	100%	32	63	14	100%	30	72
SESLHD	6	0%	91	151	4	25%	110	248	3	0%	112	179	3	0%	119	289	16	6%	108	217
SLHD-CCD	6	83%	37	109	4	100%	29	105	2	100%	39	121	1	100%	29	52	13	96%	33	97
SLHD-RPA	6	83%	34	150	13	100%	19	105	10	90%	26	145	19	100%	15	53	48	93%	24	113
SVHN	3	100%	27	52	5	80%	32	64	12	100%	26	74	16	63%	40	97	36	86%	31	72
SWSLHD	7	86%	39	88	9	89%	31	76	7	43%	49	130	10	70%	43	121	33	72%	40	104
WNSWLHD	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
WSLHD	10	0%	81	136	5	20%	76	124	10	20%	68	124	8	88%	38	80	33	32%	66	116
TOTAL	61	59%	50	109	77	66%	44	113	81	70%	43	108	93	78%	37	92	312	71%	42	101

Table 3: The 45 calendar days benchmark for the review and approval of human research ethics applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2018 and 31/12/2020.

Ethics Applications						
LHD	2018 Total		2019 Total		2020 Total	
	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark	Number of Applications	% 45 Day Benchmark
BLLBRY	-*	-*	33	94%	76	94%
CINSW	69	50%	52	89%	60	92%
HNELHD	101	88%	122	77%	110	87%
ISLHD	32	88%	16	93%	26	29%
JHFMHN	4	84%	5	84%	4	33%
NBMLHD	21	22%	23	49%	26	66%
NNSWLHD	3	0%	7	43%	5	75%
NSLHD	15	20%	21	48%	39	83%
SCHN	76	100%	46	72%	43	100%
SESLHD	74	44%	71	27%	54	11%
SLHD-CCD	42	69%	40	74%	58	97%
SLHD-RPA	157	93%	112	89%	182	98%
SVHN	74	94%	65	95%	86	79%
SWSLHD	63	79%	85	75%	92	77%
WNSWLHD	12	67%	11	75%	16	83%
WSLHD	69	41%	46	51%	95	39%
TOTAL	812	74%	755	74%	972	71%

**Bellberry were not included in the NSW Metrics Program until 2019 when they were established as the dedicated Early Phase Clinical Trial HREC.*



METRIC 4: Date Valid SSA Application Received by the RGO to Site Authorisation

NSW State Benchmark:

- The benchmark for studies approved from the 2018/19 financial year onwards is 15 calendar days.

All studies (greater than low risk) authorised with a final SSA Decision Notification Date between 1st of January 2020 and 31st of December 2020.

Selection Criteria Summary:

Study Type- "All", Current Decision- "Authorised", "Authorised with conditions" or "Further information response authorised", Final Decision Notification Date - "within the period"

Total Time:

Total time is the measurement of the total, unadjusted time from the Submission Date to when the final decision notification email is sent granting approval.

Metric Time:

Metric time is the calculated adjustments to the total time to account for processes where an application is worked on by both Research Office staff and the Researcher (that is, where a 'clock on/clock off' function is employed). These calculations determine whether applications are processed within the specified timeframes.

Summary for Metric 4:

SSA review performance of NSW PHOs according to the <15 day benchmark for studies authorised between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020 are shown in the comparison table (Table 4).

In NSW, 1744 studies (greater than low risk) were authorised in NSW PHOs with a final SSA decision letter provided to the site principal investigator (final clock stop date) between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020. Of these site authorisation applications, 819 (47%) were classified as clinical trials (Table 5)

Table 4: The 15 calendar days benchmark for review and approval of governance applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020.

Governance Approval – All GLR research																				
LHD	Jan-Mar 2020				Apr-Jun 2020				Jul-Sept 2020				Oct-Dec 2020				2020 Total			
	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)
ASNSW	4	50%	42	99	4	50%	25	158	1	100%	13	24	2	100%	12	51	11	75%	23	83
CALVARY	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	15	40%	35	54	11	91%	8	11	26	65%	21	33
CCLHD	14	14%	67	87	13	15%	60	134	18	17%	63	82	8	25%	57	88	53	18%	62	98
FWLHD	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	2	100%	4	22	1	100%	11	12	3	100%	8	17
HNELHD	32	41%	26	69	51	45%	22	64	43	63%	21	42	43	81%	11	31	169	57%	20	51
ISLHD	4	0%	23	37	18	61%	14	56	15	93%	8	40	16	88%	8	41	53	60%	13	43
MLHD	1	100%	15	41	4	100%	9	73	2	50%	12	29	7	14%	38	44	14	66%	18	47
MNCLHD	7	43%	36	51	5	60%	13	57	4	75%	8	37	2	50%	19	38	18	57%	19	46
NBMLHD	15	20%	32	103	22	45%	24	62	25	28%	28	71	18	72%	13	64	80	41%	24	75
NNSWLHD	3	33%	20	27	4	25%	74	91	6	67%	17	37	7	43%	20	39	20	42%	33	48
NSLHD	27	19%	58	89	17	47%	27	74	44	39%	26	83	49	84%	13	97	137	47%	31	86
NSWHPATH	1	100%	0	162	6	50%	17	106	7	86%	11	58	2	100%	4	40	16	84%	8	91
SCHN	20	65%	16	102	27	52%	17	123	30	83%	11	101	22	91%	8	73	99	73%	13	100
SESLHD	48	35%	32	94	55	82%	11	92	61	84%	9	62	68	96%	3	54	232	74%	14	76
SLHD-CCD	18	94%	6	56	19	95%	5	36	14	100%	6	49	30	100%	5	59	81	97%	6	50
SLHD-RPA	29	76%	14	53	40	70%	11	28	44	86%	8	45	35	86%	9	37	148	79%	10	41
SNSWLHD	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	1	0%	104	106	7	71%	14	38	8	36%	59	72
SVHN	20	45%	19	80	31	87%	9	81	33	76%	13	94	21	71%	13	72	105	70%	13	82
SWSLHD	46	89%	6	88	39	85%	8	72	65	100%	5	85	59	100%	4	75	209	93%	6	80
WNSWLHD	3	100%	0	5	9	100%	4	37	12	100%	1	18	8	100%	1	9	32	100%	1	17
WSLHD	33	48%	22	84	44	41%	20	81	79	29%	22	88	74	68%	23	82	230	47%	22	84
TOTAL	325	54%	24	74	408	62%	21	79	521	67%	20	58	490	78%	14	50	1744	66%	20	63

Table 5: The 15 calendar days benchmark for the review and approval of governance clinical trial applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2020.

Governance Approval – Clinical Trials only																				
LHD	Jan-Mar 2020				Apr-Jun 2020				Jul-Sept 2020				Oct-Dec 2020				2020 Total			
	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Average Metric Time (Days)	Average Total Time (Days)
ASNSW	1	100%	0	216	1	0%	50	96	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	2	50%	25	156
CALVARY	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	12	42%	21	30	9	89%	9	13	21	65%	15	21
CCLHD	7	0%	78	104	4	0%	86	183	13	23%	56	71	6	17%	66	89	30	10%	71	112
FWLHD	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
HNELHD	11	18%	37	44	23	39%	25	61	18	56%	22	35	11	55%	15	35	63	42%	25	44
ISLHD	2	0%	27	39	10	70%	12	29	9	100%	8	32	8	88%	8	24	29	64%	14	31
MLHD	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	2	0%	40	49	2	0%	40	49
MNCLHD	1	100%	0	36	2	50%	14	15	2	100%	5	34	1	100%	12	20	6	88%	8	26
NBMLHD	4	0%	41	79	10	30%	24	56	13	38%	23	49	5	60%	13	34	32	32%	25	55
NNSWLHD	1	0%	17	17	1	100%	5	13	4	75%	19	49	4	25%	30	46	10	50%	18	31
NSLHD	16	13%	71	101	6	50%	35	74	25	32%	29	87	24	88%	10	67	71	46%	36	82
NSWHPH	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	2	100%	11	36	0	-	-	-	2	100%	11	36
SCHN	12	58%	16	84	11	73%	13	109	14	93%	8	80	10	90%	7	60	47	78%	11	84
SESLHD	17	35%	28	77	19	84%	12	59	32	81%	12	47	27	93%	5	40	95	73%	15	56
SLHD-CCD	7	86%	11	49	14	93%	5	30	8	100%	6	61	19	100%	6	52	48	95%	7	48
SLHD-RPA	10	70%	12	91	20	55%	15	28	21	81%	11	59	19	74%	13	40	70	70%	13	54
SNSWLHD	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	1	100%	14	36	1	100%	14	36
SVHN	10	30%	22	83	20	90%	9	69	15	67%	13	111	10	70%	13	86	55	64%	14	87
SWSLHD	23	83%	8	69	14	79%	11	51	32	100%	6	79	28	100%	4	54	97	90%	7	63
WNSWLHD	1	100%	0	0	3	100%	3	31	6	100%	1	17	6	100%	0	7	16	100%	1	14
WSLHD	16	44%	16	74	22	36%	22	64	46	28%	22	80	38	76%	13	69	122	46%	18	72
TOTAL	139	46%	24	73	180	59%	21	61	272	72%	16	56	228	73%	15	46	819	63%	19	58

Table 6: The 15 calendar days benchmark for the review and approval of governance applications (greater than low risk) between 01/01/2018 and 31/12/2020.

LHD	Governance Applications					
	2018 Total		2019 Total		2020 Total	
	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark	Number of Applications	% 15 Day Benchmark
ASNSW	0	-	1	0%	11	75%
CALVARY	.*	.*	.*	.*	26	65%
CCLHD	37	81%	29	33%	53	18%
FWLHD	-	-	-	-	3	100%
HNELHD	207	64%	201	53%	169	57%
ISLHD	77	63%	38	52%	53	60%
JHFMHN	7	100%	6	88%	0	-
MLHD	21	44%	13	33%	14	66%
MNCLHD	2 ±	0%	25	25%	18	57%
NBMLHD	79	71%	67	39%	80	41%
NNSWLHD	74 ±	59%	54	50%	20	42%
NSLHD	22	18%	37	41%	137	47%
NSWHPH	-	-	-	-	16	84%
SCHN	142	54%	117	58%	99	73%
SESLHD	205	56%	127	43%	232	74%
SLHD-CCD	86	66%	81	82%	81	97%
SLHD-RPA	200	95%	162	84%	148	79%
SNSWLHD	9	82%	4	84%	8	36%
SVHN	135	88%	81	72%	105	70%
SWSLHD	218	63%	181	85%	209	93%
WNSWLHD	52	98%	22	85%	32	100%
WSLHD	248	68%	207	68%	230	47%
TOTAL	1821	65%	1453	56%	1744	66%

*Calvary Mater Hospital Newcastle were not included in the NSW Metrics Program until July 2020

± Earlier Metrics Reports were not able to distinguish clearly between the activities of NNSW and MNCLHDs. This was rectified in 2019 by the introduction of REGIS.

A list of NSW PHOs names and abbreviations that review and/or authorise human research studies:

Human Research Ethics Committee/ Research Governance Office Names	Abbreviation used in the tables	Ethics	Site
Ambulance Service of NSW	ASNSW		Yes
Bellberry	BLLBRRY	Yes	
Calvary Mater Hospital Newcastle	CALVARY		Yes
Central Coast LHD	CCLHD		Yes
NSW Population & Health Services Research Ethics Committee	CINSW	Yes	
Greater Western LHD	WNSWLHD	Yes	Yes
Hammond Care	HCARE		Yes
Hunter New England LHD	HNELHD	Yes	Yes
Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network	JHFMHN	Yes	Yes
Mid North Coast LHD	MNCLHD		Yes
Murrumbidgee LHD	MLHD		Yes
Northern NSW LHD	NNSWLHD	Yes	Yes
Nepean Blue Mountains LHD	NBMLHD	Yes	Yes
Northern Sydney LHD	NSLHD	Yes	Yes
NSW Health Pathology	NSWHPTH		Yes
Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney HREC	RRCS	Yes	
Sydney Children's Hospitals Network	SCHN	Yes	Yes
South Eastern Sydney LHD	SESLHD	Yes	Yes
Sydney LHD (Concord Zone)	SLHD – CCD	Yes	Yes
Sydney LHD (RPAH Zone)	SLHD – RPA	Yes	Yes
Southern NSW LHD	SNSWLHD		Yes
St Vincent's Hospital	SVHN	Yes	Yes
South Western Sydney LHD	SWSLHD	Yes	Yes
Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD (joint committee with University of Wollongong)	ISLHD	Yes	Yes
Western Sydney LHD	WSLHD	Yes	Yes