6WCRI
3 June, 2019

Dissemination and implementation of the Australian Code

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NHMRC

BUILDING
A HEALTHY
AUSTRALIA

This talk:

Introduction to the Australian Code

Dissemination of the Code

Implementation

Determinants of success

Questions

The role of NHMRC: Strategic Direction

invest in high quality health and medical research and build research capability, supporting the best research and researchers

support the translation of health and medical research into clinical practice, policy and health systems and the effective commercialisation of research discoveries

maintain a strong integrity framework for research and guideline development, underpinning rigorous research and relevant and accurate guidelines and promoting community trust

A new Code was released in 2018

- Code is principles-based
- 8 principles, 29 responsibilities

  – Support high-quality research
  – Enhance credibility of research
  – Promote community trust

- All disciplines at all research institutions

- Co-authored with ARC/UA

Australian Government
National Health and Medical Research Council
Australian Research Council

UNIVERSITIES
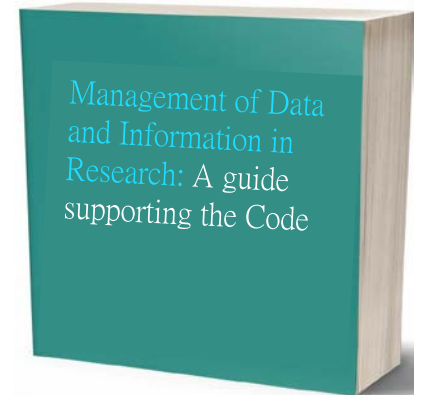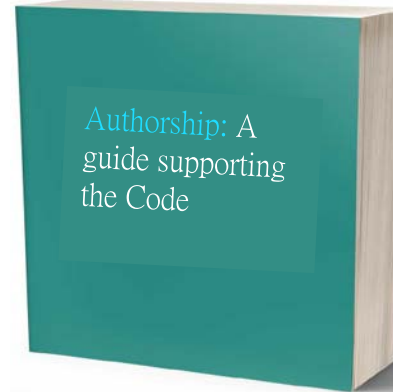AUSTRALIA

Australian Code for the
Responsible Conduct of Research

2018

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Supporting guides provide advice about implementation

Coming soon….

Released with Code:

Authorship: A guide supporting the Code

Management of Data and Information in Research: A guide supporting the Code

Later….

Peer review: A guide supporting the Code

Disclosure of interests and management of conflicts of interest: A guide supporting the Code

Collaborative research: A guide supporting the Code

Supervision: A guide supporting the Code

Publication and dissemination of research: A guide supporting the Code
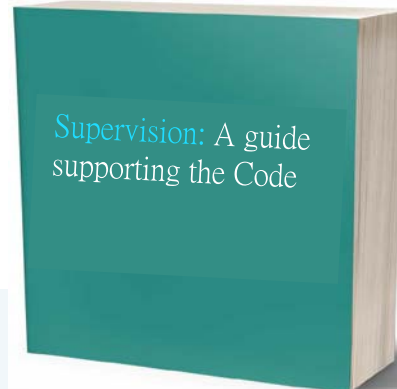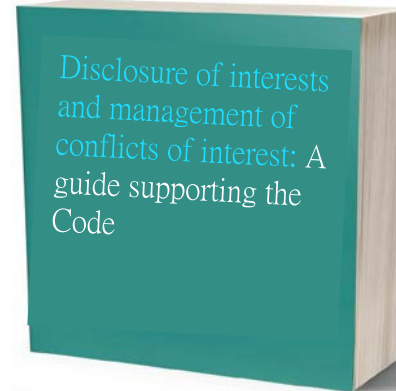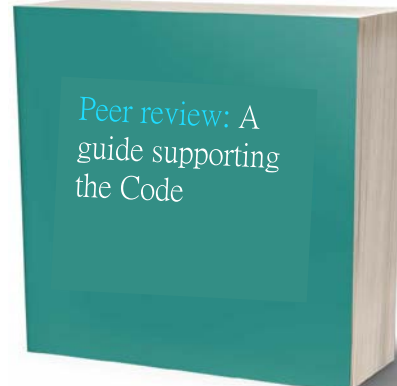
Research Integrity Advisors: A guide supporting the Code

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How is the Code disseminated?

- NHMRC and ARC websites

- Webinars

- Gave talks on invitation

- Targeted and public consultation

How is the Code disseminated?

Referred to in key NHMRC and ARC documents

By working closely with institutions, NHMRC supports Code implementation by:

- providing general advice

- keeping institutions accountable for length of investigations and making improvements

- ensuring guides are relevant and practical

Determinants of success

NHMRC has a range of ways of *generally* finding out how Code implementation success, such as:

- Data provided in Institutional Annual Compliance Report
- Notifications about investigations/integrity matters
- Reviews by ARIC
- Start to see more consistency
- Inquiries from institutions to clarify aspects of the Code and Guides
- Feedback from institutions about how they are working with the Code and the usefulness of the Guides

Determinants of success

But interpretation of data is difficult, for example:

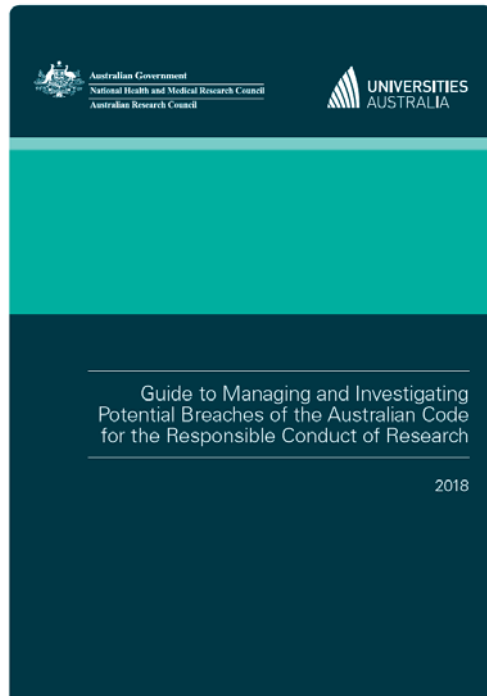Does more complaints about research integrity mean implementation of Code is improving or worsening?

What does an increase in requests for ARIC review mean?

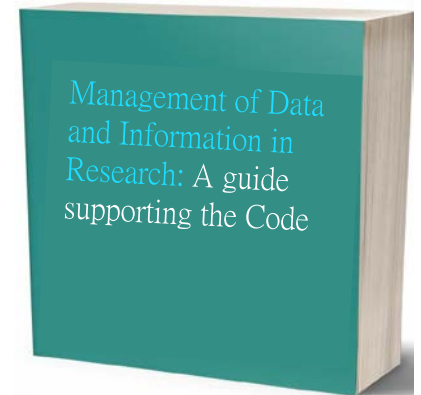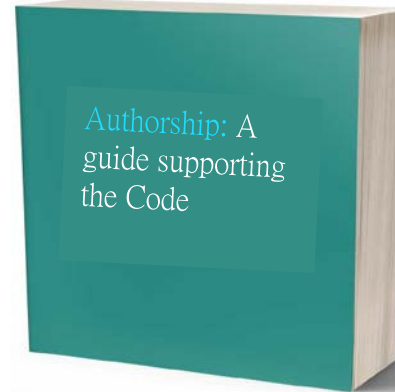Is there consistency between institutions in the conduct of investigations?

How do you quantitate implementation of principles such as honesty?

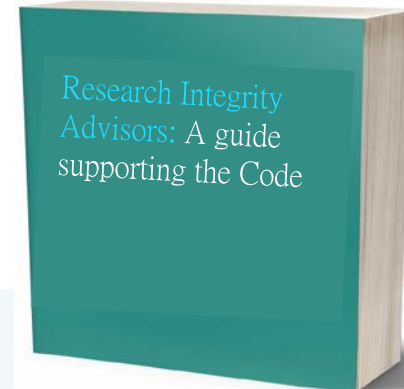# Supporting guides provide advice about implementation

Coming soon….

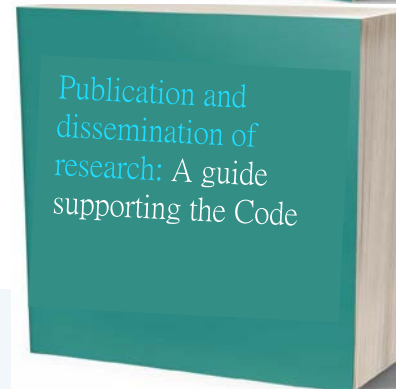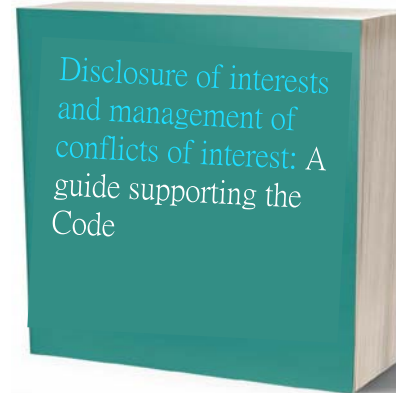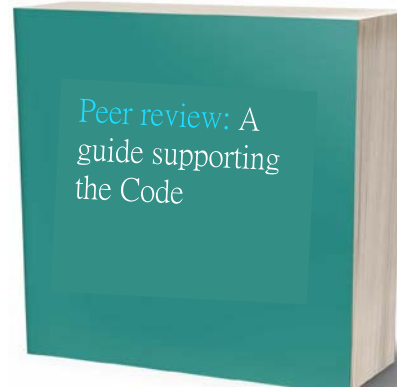Released with Code:

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Research Integrity Advisors: A guide supporting the Code

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Summary

Overall, the Code has been well received.

Feedback from institutions is that:

- they are working hard to update their policies by July 2019
- the additional guides will assist with implementation

ARIC provides another layer of confidence that breaches will be investigated according to the Code.

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Thank you

Questions?

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