



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Department of Veterans' Affairs

DEFENCE COMMAND APPROVAL

What is command approval?

Command approval is part of Defence's research governance requirements. Command approval facilitates the release of Defence personnel (Defence members, Australian Public Service employees and contractors) to participate in research and allows for commanders/managers to provide input into activities that may affect operation of their unit or organisation.

The requirement for command approval is consistent with the 'National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research' paragraph 2.2.13 which states:

"Within some communities, decisions about participation in research may involve not only individuals but also properly interested parties such as formally constituted bodies, institutions, families or community elders. Researchers need to engage with all properly interested parties in planning the research."

When do I need command approval?

Command approval is required for research that involves active participation of Defence personnel. In principle command approval is to be obtained prior to submission of a research proposal to a Defence ethical review body in accordance with the 'Human and Animal Research Manual' and the 'DDVA HREC Researcher and Administrative Guidelines'.

Command approval is not required for research that does not involve active participation by individuals.

Where do I get command approval from?

Command approval must be obtained from someone who is in the direct chain of command of the area where participants are being sought.

Is there a template for command approval?

A template to facilitate command approval is included in the Project Description and Application for Quality Assurance and Evaluation Activity templates. Approvals via email or Minute/Brief will be accepted however; they should indicate the number of participants that the commander manager has approved for participation and the corresponding time period.