

**The University of Newcastle**  
**CHeReL**  
**Changes to process for accessing CHeReL data linkage**

In the light of the interest shown in the CHeReL at the information meeting on the 18 March 2008, a more formal application procedure for accessing University of Newcastle data linkage credits has been introduced. The revised processes and entitlements are the same as those currently being used successfully by the University of Sydney and University of NSW. Procedures will be reviewed after some experience with applications from local researchers.

**THERE WILL NO LONGER BE AN EOI PROCESS. INSTEAD, FULL APPLICATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED. APPLICATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER ROUND 1 2008 MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5PM FRIDAY 2 MAY 2008.**

The key documents are available on the University of Newcastle Research website, internal grants <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/grants/int/centreforhealthrecordlinkage.html>

- **Information for applicants** - outlines the eligibility criteria, selection criteria and process for allocation of data linkage credits.
- **Application for access** – format and information required with each application
- **Assessment score sheet** – form used by independent expert reviewers

General information on the Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL) and its services are available at <http://www.cherel.org.au>. The website provides details on the Centre, record linkage, privacy issues, information for researchers and contact details.

**Points to note:**

- Professor Alison Jones chairs the University of Newcastle Health Data Linkage (HDL) Committee.
- Decisions will be based on scientific merit and strategic relevance to the University
- The data credits are primarily to support pilot projects for larger funding applications, add-on projects to existing funded grants, and small-scale projects.
- Three rounds of data linkage credit allocations will occur in 2008. Applications will close at 5pm on Friday 2 May, Friday 1 August and Friday 31 October.
- The first listed Chief Investigator must be an employee of the University of Newcastle or a conjoint staff member employed at one of its affiliated teaching hospitals or research institutes or an enrolled post-graduate student at the University of Newcastle. Cross-institutional collaborations are welcome.
- An application to the NSW Health and Cancer Institute NSW Population and Health Services Research Ethics Committee is a prerequisite for use of the CHeReL data. Given this procedure can take 2-3 months, evidence of ethics approval will not be required with applications in the first two rounds (closing dates 2 May, 2008 and 1 August). Proof of ethics approval must be provided to the HDL Committee once obtained. For the round closing 31 October 2008 and all subsequent rounds, applications must be accompanied by evidence of ethics approval.

- Indicative amounts of data linkage credits available to any single proposal are described in the Information for Applicants.
- Applications without evidence of access to data processing and statistical analysis facilities and skills are unlikely to be successful.
- A quotation from the CHeReL must be provided with the application.
- Independent reviewers will assess each application
- Forms for ethics committee applications and relevant privacy forms are available on the CHeReL website (<http://www.cherel.org.au>).

Further questions can be directed to Alison Jones ([Alison.Jones@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Alison.Jones@newcastle.edu.au)) or Jane Robertson ([Jane.Robertson@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Jane.Robertson@newcastle.edu.au)).