

# Tactical Research Unit

## Conflict of Interest Approach



For all research that involves an industry product, whether initiated by the industry or government organisation, we use a multilayered research integrity process.

Examples of the measures taken to ensure research integrity:

- All TRU staff have received formal training in research integrity.
- All Conflicts of Interest are stated up front in any proposal and formally registered with the Bond University Office of Research Services.
- All research follows Nationally approved research ethics guidelines and are also approved by a third party, The Bond University Human Research Ethics Committee. This committee commissions an external panel to scrutinize additional concerning factors, like power dependencies, industry influence, etc.
- The research protocol to be employed is formally registered on an international database to show what will be done and how it will be achieved. This ensures a level of accountability so that, for example, a couple of unfavourable results cannot be dropped out.
- In situations where the TRU are working on behalf of multiple agencies, a dedicated COI statement may be released to each agency

When research is being conducted:

- All data is as non-identifiable as possible. Equipment is not referred to by brand (brands removed where possible) and, alphanumeric designators are used to represent each piece of equipment for participants. Trial ILAV 1B or Trial ILAV 2C, for example. Participants are also made non-identifiable.
- A counterbalanced research design is used so that each participant acts as their own controls (baseline) and this order is randomised using specific research criteria for randomisation.
- When categorical data is analysed, it is purely numeric with no identification allocated. The results are also cross checked by a collaborator at another university (a TRU adjunct) who has not seen the product or data collection, and simply runs statistics on the numbers.
- Most of the research is published in a journal following release approvals. For publications, a blinded peer review process is used whereby the reviewers do not know who the researchers are, and the researchers do not know who the reviewers are – thus adding a further layer of scientific validity.
- For all emerging research, a review of the literature is conducted to provide an evidence base for all the measures used. Findings are then compared to those of the wider academic literature.

We typically develop a firm understanding between all involved that the Technical Reports we produce must be politically, commercially, and personality free and built on pure evidence-based science.

