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In 2010 Queensland Health will adopt a state-wide single review process for scientific and ethics research review. Single ethical review will streamline review processes for research that involves more than one Queensland Health site, by ensuring only a single scientific and ethics review of a research protocol. This process is aimed at reducing the duplications of HREC reviews.

Currently, a HREC may approve a study without further ethical review, which another institutional HREC has approved and the project/protocol appears to conform to the requirements of the Committee. The HREC reserves the right to ratify the previous decision, request amendments or clarification or reject the protocol. As a formal single ethical review process has not yet been introduced in Queensland, a HREC may still require that a full ethical review of a project is undertaken, despite a previous HREC approval from another institution.

Details on how to make application for single review for multi-centre research will become available in late 2009.

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