

Department of Health Western Australia Human Research Ethics Committee

Project Summaries for Approved Proposals

January to March 2017 Quarter

Project summaries for proposals approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee – January to March 2017 quarter.

The material contained in this document is made available to assist researchers, institutions and the general public in searching for projects that have ethics approval from the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee (DOH HREC). It contains lay description/summaries available for the January to March 2017 quarter.

Project Title	Probabilistic linkage using privacy preserved linkage variables		
Principal Investigator	Associate Professor James Boyd		
Institution	Curtin University of Technology		
Start Date	8 March 2017	Finish Date	30 August 2018

Data linkage is the connection of records thought to belong to the same person, place, family or event. Data linkage is typically performed using personal identifying information, such as name, address and date of birth. However in some circumstances, identifying information cannot be provided for linkage, thus preventing potentially valuable research infrastructure.

Development and implementation of linkage systems that do not require the release of personal information can overcome legal and privacy issues surrounding data integration. Current conceptual and experimental privacy preserving record linkage (PPRL) models show promise in addressing data integration challenges but do not address real-world operational requirements. This project will test the concept of using PPRL in Western Australia.

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