

Statement of Authorship

Background

Authorship statements assist in establishing expectations early in the research process. Ideally authorship statements should be completed when the research is being planned and definitely well ahead of submission to a publication. Statements can, and often are, varied with the agreement of participants. The authorship process is dynamic, not static and statements can be revisited and updated.

Authorship statements should be completed for all research publications – including sole author publications.

Disputes over authorship are one of the most commonly occurring research integrity issues.

Criteria

The *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)* required that authorship be based on a **substantial intellectual contribution** in a combination of:

- conception and design of the project, or
- analysis or interpretation of research data, or
- drafting significant parts of the research output or critically revising it so as to contribute to its interpretation.

Victoria University, in compliance with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018)* (The Code), requires accurate completion and retention of this statement indicating agreed authorship and acknowledgements for publications.

From “Responsibilities of Researchers” in The Code – Page 4

R25 Ensure that authors of research outputs are all those, and only those who have made a significant intellectual or scholarly contribution to the research and its output, and that they agree to be listed as a author.

R26 Acknowledge those who have contributed to the research.

Authorship is not tied to position or profession and does not depend on whether the contribution was paid or voluntary. Substantial intellectual involvement is required to reach the level of authorship. This does not include provision of materials, routine technical support or to have made measurements upon which the research output is based. These contributions might be better suited to an acknowledgement. Where possible, acknowledgements should be indicated on this form.

A person who qualifies as an author must be consulted before they are included (or excluded) from the work. Any acceptance or rejection of affiliation must be in writing and in the case of acceptance, include a brief description of their contribution.

The editor of a significant collective work can have responsibilities analogous to those listed above for authorship and similar criteria can apply for ‘editor’ as for ‘author.’ The term ‘editor’ should only be applied to a person who has played a significant role in the intellectual shaping of a publication.

A lead/coordinating author must be nominated for each publication who will accept overall responsibility for recording authorship, submission and managing communication about the work with the publisher. An Authorship Agreement is required by most academic publications.

Additional information of Authorship obligations is available from <https://nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018>