

# WNF Research Advocacy Working Group Terms of Reference

As of April 2026

## Rationale

As a professional international association, the WNF is engaged in a diverse range of activities; however, all activities have an overarching goal to enhance and promote the global naturopathic profession and to support internal development and professionalism of its members.

WNF Working Groups are formed to support specific WNF projects that advance the global naturopathic profession and/or add to the professional development of its members. The Research Advocacy working group will implement initiatives with the aim of increasing research capacity of naturopaths/naturopathic doctors globally. As well as, supporting the building of research capacity and collaboration with other healthcare professions/professionals.

## Membership

- Number of members: minimum five (5) and maximum eleven (11) members
- At least four (4) world regions represented
- At least one (1) and a maximum of three (3) members from the WNF Executive (one to be WG Lead).
- At least one (1) and a maximum of three (3) members representing full members.
- At least three (3) and a maximum of six (6) members representing educational members.
- At least one (1) and a maximum of (3) naturopathic researchers.
- The WNF Chief Executive Officer.
- Any conflicts of interest must be declared, and those individuals may be asked to leave the working group.

## Period of Office

Appointed members shall normally serve on the Working Group for the duration of two years, but they can serve consecutive terms.

## Quorum

The Research Advocacy working group is considered to be at quorum based on attendance of three members, including one researcher plus the WNF Executive Lead.

## Goals

The Research Advocacy WG shall be directly responsible to the WNF Research Committee and will have the following functions:

- Foster global naturopathic research capacity and quality.
- Support the future of naturopathic research collaboratively.
- << Rénee, Joanna and Kieran – please feel free to add to the goals of this WG >>

## Meeting Schedule

The Research Advocacy shall meet three (3) times a year, normally before meetings of the WNF Research Committee. Additional meetings may be scheduled on a needs basis to enable the Working Group to discharge its duties.

## Meeting Procedures

For the purpose of this Working Group, “meeting” shall include a meeting conducted face-to-face, by telephone (teleconference) or by audio visual means.

External stakeholders of the WNF may request the opportunity to address the Research Advocacy Working Group at any time and this request will be considered and approved by the WNF Lead. The minutes of the meeting will be recorded and shared with the members within a week of the meeting.

## Review and Reference

Terms of Reference and the functioning of the Research Advocacy Working Group will be subject to review at least every year by the Board to ensure that it is operating effectively, fulfilling its functions and reviewed for continuing relevance. Each year the Research Advocacy WG will undertake a self-evaluation of performance. Areas requiring further attention in the following year will be highlighted to the Board.