

## Research Committee 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.

The WNF represents naturopathic doctors and naturopaths globally. All member organizations need to support the highest in naturopathic educational standards for their country and need to support the regulation of the naturopathic profession. The naturopathic profession is defined by its philosophies, principles and theories and encompasses a broad set of therapies, practices and procedures. The research areas included in the WNF research priorities need to be equally broad and encompass clinical issues beyond technique or treatment efficacy.

The Research Committee shall advise the WNF on research policy and on the development of strategies to promote research in naturopathy. In addition, it shall have delegated responsibility for reviewing the scientific worth, validity and proposed methodology of research proposals.

The Research Committee will recommend such research proposals to the WNF Board for consideration. The Research Committee shall report on its meetings and activities to the Board.

### Membership

- Maximum number of members: nine (9)
- At least three (3) world regions represented
- At least one (1) and a maximum of two (2) members from the WNF Board (one to be co-Chairperson).
- At least one (1) and a maximum of three (3) members with research experience within the naturopathic practitioner education environment. These members must be willing to liaise with the other institutions and are not appointed as a representative of their educational institution.
- At least two (2) and a maximum of five (5) members with research experience within a naturopathic doctor education environment. These members must be willing to liaise with the other institutions and are not appointed as a representative of their educational institution.
- At least one (1) and a maximum of two (2) members of the research community in a tertiary education environment *outside of* a naturopathic learning institution. At least one representative from the research community as co-Chair.
- 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 Research Committee for a term of two (2) years. Members may serve consecutive terms.

## Quorum

A quorum for meetings of the Research Committee shall be half the membership (at the time, plus one and a WNF Executive member must always be in attendance.

## Goals

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

- Develop a comprehensive and transparent research policy and processes.
- Review the scientific worth, validity and proposed methodology of research proposals to be conducted by the WNF, in collaboration with WNF, or using the WNF's resources.
- Maintain a register of approved research projects.
- Monitor the progress of approved research projects in accordance with the agreed requirements in order to ensure that research is conducted in accordance with the WNF's approval of the research.
- Make recommendations on future strategic planning and policy directions for research and the development funding models.
- Recommend opportunities for liaison with external bodies, research funding bodies and Journal editors etc. for the advancement and recognition of research within the naturopathic profession.
- Develop an annual plan for research activity, particularly in relation to research proposals, and report on its activities in timeframes as set by the Board.
- Provide advice to the Board on the development of the research culture and profile of naturopathy and the WNF.

Where requested by the WNF, the Research Committee may also:

- Develop and review the WNF's research policies and procedures framework in line with the identified research priorities.
- Make recommendations on budget and resource requirements to support research and scholarship activities of the WNF.
- Represent the WNF's research interests and/or liaise with external stakeholders on behalf of the WNF.

## Meeting Schedule

The Research Committee shall meet four (4) times a year, normally before meetings of the Board. Additional meetings may be scheduled on a needs basis to enable the Committee to discharge its duties.



## Meeting Procedures

For the purpose of this Committee policy and associated procedures, “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 Committee at any time and this request will be considered and approved by the Chair/co-Chairs. 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 Committee will be subject to review at least every two years by the Board to ensure that it is operating effectively, fulfilling its functions and reviewed for continuing relevance. Each year the Research Committee will undertake a self-evaluation of performance. Areas requiring further attention in the following year will be highlighted to the Board.