



# POLICY

**Policy Title:** Infection Control

**Policy Owner:** Director Human Resources Service Centre

**Keywords:** 1) Safety and Health    2) Infection Control    3) Biohazards  
4) Blood    5) Body Fluids    6) Transport    7) Disease  
8) Health Care Worker

**Policy Code:** PL155 [hr106]

---

[Intent](#)

[Organisational Scope](#)

[Definitions](#)

[Policy Content](#)

[Accountabilities and Responsibilities](#)

[Related Documents](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Approval History](#)

---

## 1. INTENT

This policy aims to achieve the University's goal in providing and maintaining, so far as is reasonably practicable, a safe and healthy work environment for its staff, students and visitors.

Specifically, this policy aims to:

- a) Reduce the risk of exposure to biohazardous and infectious materials and body fluids and minimise the likelihood of transmission of infection.
- b) Support and protect workers, students and visitors who have an infectious disease from discrimination, harassment or vilification.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the University's Infection Control Procedures and Guidelines, specific to and available from the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science.

## 2. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

All Edith Cowan University (ECU) staff, students and visitors

### 3. DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Biohazardous material	Any material that is of a potentially infectious nature.
ECU	Edith Cowan University
Hazard/hazardous	In relation to a person, anything that may result in injury to the person or other persons or poses a risk, danger to, or could harm, the health of a person or other persons.
Infectious	Having the ability to cause the invasion and multiplication of microorganisms in body tissue; pertaining to, or characterised by, the presence of pathogens.

### 4. POLICY CONTENT

- 4.1** No person is required to disclose information relating to their health status except as required by the Health Department of WA. The University recognises that individuals have a right to privacy and confidentiality regarding their personal information.
- 4.2** Staff and students with an infectious disease have a duty of care towards other members of the University community so that the risk of transmission of any infection is minimised.
- 4.3** All activities involving the handling and use of biohazardous, infectious materials or body fluids must comply with the relevant legislative requirements and University Health and Safety policies. Further guidance is provided in the University's Infection Control Procedures and Guidelines.
- 4.4** It is the responsibility of the person who has management control of a workplace to ensure that:
1. All persons are provided with appropriate information, instructions, training and supervision prior to using or handling biohazardous or infectious substances or body fluids.
  2. Prior to activities involving the risk of exposure to any biohazardous or infectious substances, a Risk Management approach must be undertaken.

### 5. ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In relation to this policy, the following positions are responsible for the following

#### *Policy Owner*

The Policy Owner the Director Human Resources Service Centre has overall responsibility for the content of this policy and its operation in ECU.

#### *Staff/students/contractor/visitors*

Staff/students/contractors are required to comply with the content of this policy and to seek guidance in the event of uncertainty as to its application.

Staff, students, contractors and visitors are also required to report deviations from this policy to their immediate supervisor and to the Health and Safety Office.

## 6. RELATED DOCUMENTS:

6.1 The policy is supported by the following Guidelines:

- University Health and Safety Policy [HR081], available from the Health and safety page of the HR Service Centre website
- University Infection Control Procedures and Guidelines [FCHS]
- Conduct of Ethical Research and Teaching Involving Animals [AC025]

6.2 Other documents which are relevant to the operation of this policy are as follows:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984 and Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 1996 available from the State Law Publisher
- Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
- Department of Environment and Conservation
- Australian Government Department of Health and Aging Infection Control Guidelines 2004
- Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
- WA Health Department
- National Health and Medical Research Council

## 7. CONTACT INFORMATION

For queries relating to this document please contact:

Policy Owner	Director Human Resources Service Centre
All Enquiries Contact:	Director Human Resources Service Centre
Telephone:	08 6304 2937
Email address:	osh@ecu.edu.au

## 8. APPROVAL HISTORY

Policy Approved by:	Vice-Chancellor
Date Policy First Approved:	February 1997
Date last modified:	November 2013
Revision History:	April 2010 - Policy amended to comply with University Guidelines re Drafting of Policy Documents.  November 2013 Policy amended to align with new policy template
Next Revision Due:	November 2016
TRIM File Reference	SUB/12557 (Previous Trim File: 96/3945)