

PURPOSE

AIMS is committed to the highest standard of quality and integrity in research and delivery of research services. The AIMS Quality Policy establishes clear standards and expectations for the delivery of quality scientific research and services in line with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018](#) and underpins our commitment to achieving ISO 9001:2015 accreditation. The AIMS Quality Policy forms an integral part of the Institute's governance framework and promotes ethical research behaviour within the science and science support teams, providing a foundation for high-quality research, credibility and community trust.

OUR COMMITMENT

The integrity of AIMS' research is underpinned by a commitment to our values, adherence to our policies and maintaining the highest standards of practice.

We will:

- 1- ensure that the quality of the scientific research generated contributes to economic, social and environment impacts, beyond our contribution to academic research,
- 2- provide our stakeholders with quality assurance and continuing confidence that our research has been carried out at the highest standards and results and conclusions are accurate, impartial and relevant, and
- 3- maintain AIMS' international reputation for excellence in research and position in the top 5 international marine science providers

RESPONSIBILITIES

AIMS recognises that high quality science outcomes can only be achieved through the involvement and commitment of AIMS Leadership Team (ALT) and staff.

The ALT shows leadership and commitment and bears the responsibility for:

- Establishing, implementing, integrating and maintaining the AIMS Responsible Conduct of Research Framework, which describes the core behaviours of an honest, ethical and conscientious research culture, applies to all research undertaken by staff and students of the Institute, and must be followed when conducting research.
- Ensuring sufficient resources are made available within the organisation to achieve this.
- Ensuring - through communication, engagement, and training - that quality is the aim of all staff and students of the Institute.
- Continual improvement by ensuring the risks and opportunities that can affect conformity of services and the ability to enhance consumer satisfaction are determined and addressed and the focus on enhancing consumer satisfaction is maintained.

AIMS' staff and students enhance the quality of activities through compliance with all procedures and processes including the **AIMS Responsible Conduct of Research Framework**, the **AIMS External Document and Data Control Policy**, and the **Code of Conduct** to ensure that:

- They do not engage in any activities that might diminish trust in their competence, impartiality, judgement or operational integrity.

- Through direction and support, each employee will have a proper understanding of the importance of the AIMS Responsible Conduct of Research Framework, their responsibility to contribute to its effectiveness, and its direct relevance to deliver the targets set out in the AIMS Strategy 2030.
- Equally, every employee is responsible for, and will be trained to perform the duties required by his or her specific role.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

AIMS' quality performance will be measured through regular auditing, including a five-yearly organisational review by an independent panel of international experts, and continually enhanced through engagement with stakeholders.

This quality policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner in response to audit outcomes and stakeholder feedback.