GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORSHIP OF IRMRC MANUSCRIPTS

To ensure consistency and fairness, the NSW IRMRC attributes authorship according to the following criteria recommended by The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) for authorship in the *Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts* (http://www.icmje.org/):

- 1. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.
- 2. Authorship credit should be based on:
 - a. substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data (where "conception" = framing a specific hypothesis to be tested or specific question to be answered, "design" = drafting and deciding on the structure and methods for the research, and "analysis and interpretation of data" = assessing the precision, accuracy and relevance of data and statistical analysis, reviewing the literature for supportive evidence and counter evidence.); and
 - b. drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
 - c. final approval of the version to be published.

Authors should meet conditions a and b and c.

- 3. Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of members of the research group, alone, does not justify authorship.
- 4. The order of authorship on the byline should be a joint decision of the co-authors. Authors should be prepared to explain the order in which authors are listed. Indeed, some journals now request and publish information about the contributions of each person named as having participated in a submitted study, at least for original research. The American Psychologists Association also recommend: i) a student is usually listed as principal author on any multiple-authored article that is substantially based on the student's dissertation or thesis; ii) the corresponding author is responsible for determining authorship and the order of authors; iii) the general rule for the order of authors is that the name of the principal contributor should appear first, with subsequent names in order of decreasing contribution; and finally iv) where each author makes an equal contribution, this should be listed in the author's notes.
- 5. When a large, multi-centre group has conducted the work, the group should identify the individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript. These individuals should fully meet the criteria for authorship defined above and editors of journals may ask these individuals to complete journal-specific author and conflict of interest disclosure forms. Journals will generally list other members of the group in the acknowledgements.
- 6. All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an acknowledgments section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a

person who provided purely technical help, writing assistance, or a department chair who provided only general support. Groups of persons who have contributed materially to the paper but whose contributions do not justify authorship may be listed in the acknowledgements as "clinical investigators" or "participating investigators," and their function or contribution should be described - for example, "served as scientific advisors," "critically reviewed the study proposal," "collected data," or "provided and cared for study patients."