

## 1- Conversations

1. Do I need ethics approval before I can talk to X, Y, and Z?
2. Is this a research activity?
3. What are you going to be doing with those conversations?
4. What is the research output here?
5. Are you going to be doing anything with those people who come and look at the exhibit?
6. Do we need ethics approval to talk to teachers for your thesis?
7. If the person making the comment is de-identified, would that still require ethics approval?
8. How can we understand where incidental industry persons or colleagues fall in terms of participant categories?
9. How do you manage incidental findings?
10. Can I use it [data]?

These questions cover various aspects of research ethics, participant roles, data usage, and ethical considerations in conducting research activities.

### Full Transcript of Section

*So, we've got the first scenario. Looking at conversation, I can tell you that I get a lot of questions in the office. People often ask, "Do I need ethics approval before I can talk to X, Y, and Z?" You can talk to whoever you want. The ethics committee is not going to stop you from talking to people and doing your work.*

*The question is, are you talking to X, Y, and Z for research purposes? If the answer is yes, then you need ethics approval. If you're talking as part of your normal studies or your employment at Monash, you can talk all you want; no ethics approval is required.*

*Once you know that you're doing this for a research activity, you need to get ethics approval before you start collecting data. This can get confusing, and Jitana will talk more about it, especially when dealing with Indigenous research projects and community engagement.*

*This extends to non-Indigenous projects as well. If you have a research project and want to see if people are interested, you can talk to them about your ideas. That's fine; it's not considered data collection, so you don't need ethics approval for that. Once you start recruiting people and collecting data for your research, you need ethics approval before doing so.*

*When scoping and discussing with your supervisor, no ethics approval is needed. However, if you're a curator working with artists, you need to determine if your conversations are part of a research activity. If the exhibition itself is the research output, you need to determine how the conversations will be used.*

*Are these conversations going to be analysed as part of the research? If so, what will you do with this analysis? Are you going to have an exhibition? Will you be collecting information from the public? If you plan to survey people who attend the exhibition, you need ethics approval. If you are just setting up an exhibition, no ethics approval is needed.*

*Regarding autoethnography, as long as you are only focusing on your own experiences, you don't need ethics approval. However, if you start talking about other people's experiences, opinions, and*

*feelings, you need ethics approval. I had a case where a researcher included identifiable information about their colleagues without their knowledge, which required ethics approval.*

*Determining whether an activity requires ethics approval involves understanding if it's a research activity and what the research output will be. You need to consider the roles of everyone involved. Are they co-researchers or participants? For autoethnography, focusing on your own experiences doesn't require ethics approval, but discussing others' experiences does.*

*If you're collecting critiques or feedback for a project, the individuals providing input may become participants, which requires ethics approval. If they are co-researchers, you need to acknowledge them accordingly.*

*Projects can have different stages, some requiring ethics approval and some not. You need to determine the intent of each activity and whether it involves data collection. If it does, you need ethics approval.*

*We have different review pathways at the university. Full HREC reviews take four to five weeks, but lower-risk projects can go through a fast-track two-week review. The ethics office can't dictate how you set up these relationships; it's up to you to determine the nature of the collaboration.*

*If someone is de-identified, ethics approval is still required if they are participants. If they are co-researchers, you need to acknowledge their input appropriately.*

*For incidental conversations, such as those in a room with a notice about using images for promotional purposes, you can have a disclaimer for using conversations for idea-generating purposes. However, you need to inform people upfront and provide options for those who don't want their conversations used.*

*If you intend to use data from incidental conversations for research, you need ethics approval. There are options for using secondary data, but the committee will consider whether participants were informed and consented to its use for research. You may need to seek permission from those involved.*

*In summary, you need to determine whether each activity involves research and if ethics approval is required. This involves understanding the roles of those involved, the intent of the activity, and how data will be used.*