

# SA Health Research Offices Processing Times

Updated May 2025

**Clock on days** refer to the time that the application is with the Office for Research/ Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) for action. The statistics reported below only specify clock on days, and do not include the time that the application is with the research team for action. The *NHMRC Certification Handbook (2012)* recommends that HRECs aim to process new **ethics submissions within 60 clock on days** and **Site Specific Assessment (SSA) forms within 30 days**.

## Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW)

|                         | Previous quarter average          | Previous year average |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| DHW Ethics applications | 30 clock on days (7 applications) | 36 clock on days      |

| Governance   | Previous quarter average       | Previous year average |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total average time for SSA submitted to authorised (includes time back with researchers) | 84 clock days (9 applications) | 69 clock days         |
| Total average time for SSA with institution  | 66 clock on days               | 30 clock days         |
| Time with research office  | 11 clock on days               | 11 clock on days      |
| Time with Head of Department   | 55 clock on days               | 19 clock on days      |

## Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN)

|                                     | Previous quarter average           | Previous year average |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| CALHN Ethics applications           | 58 clock on days (15 applications) | 47 clock on days      |
| CALHN SSA applications              | 25 clock on days (36 applications) | 21 clock on days      |
| CALHN Low risk pathway applications | 33 clock on days (20 applications) | 33 clock on days      |

## Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN) including Drug and Alcohol Services SA (DASSA)

|                                     | Previous quarter average           | Previous year average |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| SALHN Ethics applications           | 42 clock on days (3 applications)  | 46 clock on days      |
| SALHN SSA applications              | 13 clock on days (24 applications) | 19 clock on days      |
| SALHN Low risk pathway applications | 26 clock on days (29 applications) | 27 clock on days      |

## Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN)

|                                    | Previous quarter average           | Previous year average |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| WCHN Ethics applications           | 11 clock on days (10 applications) | 33 clock on days      |
| WCHN SSA applications              | 60 clock on days (17 applications) | 19 clock on days      |
| WCHN Low risk pathway applications | 11 clock on days (15 applications) | 11 clock on days      |

## Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN)

|                        | Previous quarter average          | Previous year average |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| NALHN SSA applications | 8 clock on days (21 applications) | 11 clock on days      |

## Regional Local Health Networks (excluding RMCLHN)

|                           | Previous quarter average           | Previous year average |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Regional SSA applications | 18 clock on days (11 applications) | 15 clock on days      |

**Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network (RMCLHN)**

|                           | Previous quarter average        | Previous year average |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Regional SSA applications | 1 clock on days (1 application) | 1 clock on days       |