

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

What must I do if I think I may have made an invention?

Do not publish any details about it before getting advice from the SWAHS Office of Commercialisation.

If your research has produced software, in addition to protection by copyright, it may embody aspects which can be patented. Please check the position with the SWAHS Office of Commercialisation.

What is intellectual property?

Intellectual Property (IP) encompasses the tangible representations of intellect and creativity, and is often represented in the form of patents, registered designs, trade marks, copyright, circuit layout rights, and trade secrets.

The novel or previously undescribed tangible output of any intellectual activity can legitimately be described as intellectual property. It has an owner it can be bought, sold or licensed and must be adequately protected. It can include inventions, industrial processes, software, data, written work, designs and images.

What are intellectual property rights?

They define the legally-protected rights which enable owners of items of intellectual property to exert monopoly control over the exploitation of these rights, usually with commercial gain in mind. They give the right to stop others exploiting this property, sometimes for a fixed period, sometimes indefinitely.

What are the VARIOUS TYPES OF INTELLECTUAL property?

Categories	Protected by
<i>Inventions, each embodying a new idea capable of being made or used by industry and involving a non-obvious inventive step. (There are a number of excluded classes, such as mathematical algorithms, methods of treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy, or methods of diagnosis)</i>	<i>Patent</i>
<i>Literary and artistic works, films, videos, records, broadcasts and typographical arrangements, including computer software</i>	<i>Copyright</i>
<i>Designs and design drawings, mainly of aesthetic objects</i>	<i>Registered Design Rights</i>
<i>Engineering components, architectural drawings, etc</i>	<i>Unregistered Design Rights</i>
<i>Product brand names, company logos, etc</i>	<i>Trade Marks</i>
<i>Trade secrets, background techniques</i>	<i>Know-how</i>

For further information contact:

Office of Commercialisation - Sydney West Area Health Service
Westmead Hospital, PO Box 90, Westmead NSW 2145
Tel: 02 9845 8903 E-mail: Mark_Goode@wsahs.nsw.gov.au