

Retention Periods for Research Data*

Category	Examples Data and Datasets	Retention Period	Related QLD Retention and Disposal Schedule
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That are controversial; e.g. involving gene therapy • That are the subject of extensive debate • Arousing widespread scientific or other interest • Having the potential to cause major adverse impacts on the environment, society or human health • Involving eminent researchers • Involving the use of major new or innovative technique • Required by funding or other agreements to be retained permanently • Highly significant research data with regulatory, community or heritage value • Are costly or impossible to reproduce or substitute • Data published in a repository. 	Permanent	University Sector Retention and Disposal Schedule Section 8 (601.2/C123)
B	<p>Which include records of incidents and allegations of abuse - vulnerable persons. includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allegations of abuse • Disclosure of abuse • Incidents of abuse • Investigation or abuse. 	100 years after creation of record	General Retention and Disposal Schedule (GRDS) - Proactive protection of vulnerable persons - relevant records - 1558

C	From Clinical research including clinical trials - Adults	Minimum 15 years after completion of research/trial AND Minimum 10 years after last patient service provision or medico-legal action	Health Sector (Clinical Records) Retention and Disposal Schedule - 2658 And University Sector Retention and Disposal Schedule 601.2/C148
D	From Clinical research including clinical trials - Minors	Retain until patient/client attains 18 years of age** AND Retain for 15 years from completion of clinical research/trial or after date of publication or termination of the study AND 10 years after last patient/client service provision or legal action, whichever is the later.	Health Sector (Clinical Records) Retention and Disposal Schedule - 2659 taking precedent over University Sector Retention and Disposal Schedule 601.2/C148
E	General research data not covered by categories A, B, C, or D resulting in patent	Minimum 7 years after last action or after expiry of patent, whichever is the later	University Sector Retention and Disposal Schedule - 01.3/C149
F	General research data not covered by categories A, B, C, D or E	Minimum 5 years after last action or after last action	University Sector Retention and Disposal Schedule - 601.3/C150
G	Which include evidence of interactions and contact with vulnerable persons	Retain at least until 31 December 2028. QSA will reassess this prior to the end of 2028 and will likely have a longer retention period. This does not override longer retention requirements.	General Retention and Disposal Schedule (GRDS) - Proactive protection of vulnerable persons - relevant records - 1559

*Please see [University Sector Retention and Disposal Schedule](#) for retention periods for other records associated with research activities and projects.

**Noting this recommendation is for Queensland minors only. When working with other states, please consult local policies as these may differ at a state level (e.g. Health Records Act 2001 VIC).