

Code of Ethics *Summary*



Consult Australia members, when dealing with **clients**, the **community**, and **other members**, will uphold the standards expected of a professional consultant, committing to three core principles of collaboration, fairness and integrity.



CLIENTS

Collaboration:

- work collaboratively with clients to deliver the services, seeking to resolve issues together

Fairness:

- be efficient and proactive, by fairly considering the client's needs and interests
- provide advice that balances client needs with consideration of the needs of current and future generations including environment, health, wellbeing and safety
- where possible, and practicable to do so, take into account consideration of sustainability and sustainable outcomes when providing advice

Integrity:

- act only in areas of their competence* and practise in a careful and diligent manner
- continue to develop relevant knowledge, skill and expertise throughout their careers and actively assist and encourage those under their direction to do likewise
- provide clear, well considered advice on viability of a project or process to the client, where appropriate to the consultant's appointment and role and which the consultant is reasonably expected to consider.



COMMUNITY

Collaboration:

- engage positively with the community (when contracted to do so) so that its needs and feedback can, where possible and practicable to, be incorporated into projects (whether that arises from community consultation undertaken by the consultant or the client)

Fairness:

- ensure that community benefits, incorporating social, cultural, health, safety, environmental and economic considerations, are considered when providing advice
- where possible, and practicable to do so, take into account consideration of sustainability and sustainable outcomes when consulting communities
- provide advice that balances the current needs with the needs of future generations by identifying outcomes that do not compromise the ability of future generations to enjoy the same or better environment, health, wellbeing and safety as the current generation
- respectfully address concerns raised by the community to project decisions (when contracted to do so)

Integrity:

- provide clear and relevant information to community (when contracted to do so) and where community concerns raise an issue for re-consideration by the client, provide clear advice to the client on that issue.



OTHER MEMBERS

Collaboration:

- work collaboratively and respectfully with each other to deliver for the project, whether working in a joint venture, as consultant-sub-consultant roles or as independently appointed consultants

Fairness:

- formalise arrangements with other consultants on tenders and expression of interest bids via memorandums of understanding and do not replace those consultants upon winning the work without providing a reasonable explanation
- fairly negotiate the contract with each other, ensuring there is positive engagement, appropriate risk allocation, fair and reasonable remuneration for effort involved and open communication

Integrity:

- appropriately acknowledge the contributions of others, avoiding any unfair criticism on past work where it was conducted in accordance with all legal and contractual requirements, the accepted standards and practices and community values of the time, and in accordance with the needs of the time
- consider the circumstances and appropriateness of accepting an engagement from a client if replacing another consultant or reviewing the work of another consultant
- not attempt to supplant another consultant who has been appointed by a client nor otherwise misrepresent or undermine the integrity, skills or expertise of any consultant
- avoid actual or perceived collusion with other consultants
- accept and provide an honest and fair critique if receiving feedback or commenting on another's work.

***Note:** Members should understand the distinction between working in an area of competence and working competently. Working in an area of competence requires members to operate within their qualifications and experience. Working competently requires sound judgement. If an error of judgement occurs, the outcome may be construed as negligence, however, it does not necessarily imply that the member has acted unethically.