

Australian Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration in the Healthcare Sector



A Consensus Statement of Shared
Values and Ethical Principles
for Collaboration and Interaction
Among Organisations
in the Healthcare Sector

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Foreword from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

Australian Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration in the Healthcare Sector

The healthcare sector in Australia is the fifth largest contributor to national growth. It employs over 1.5 million people and includes healthcare professionals, professional bodies, industry – including medical device and biopharmaceutical sectors – patient groups, regulators, jurisdictions (federal and state), hospitals and health services, research and medical education institutions. Participants are committed to delivering the best outcomes for patients. Individually, and as organisations, all share similar challenges and hopes – including the desire to maintain and improve ethical behaviour.

Society's trust in government, business and not-for-profit bodies globally, including in Australia, as measured by the respected Edelman Trust Barometer, has been in steady decline in recent years. A score below 50 per cent is defined as a trust deficit. All three sectors – government, business and not for profit – are currently in this trust-deficit zone. Unethical behaviour is one of the causes of this trust deficit.

In an innovative and pioneering initiative, participants in the Australian healthcare sector embarked on developing an Australian Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration (ACF). This initiative is sector-led, voluntary and inclusive, and embraces the support of Federal and state and territory jurisdictions. Having commenced in December 2017 with a group of five bodies representing medical professional groups, industry associations and hospital and health services, the ACF has grown to more than 60 bodies spanning the entire health system. The support from federal and state and territory jurisdictions is also significant.

The ACF stems from the foundation work progressed as part of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Ethics for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) initiative, which commenced in November 2010 to strengthen and align industry practices across the

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region. This initiative began with the development of a common set of APEC principles for codes of ethics within the medical device and biopharmaceutical sectors.

APEC is a regional economic forum to promote sustainable and inclusive growth across 21 Asia-Pacific member economies spanning five continents. Australia plays a special role in APEC, having hosted the first forum in Canberra on 6-7 November 1989.

Since 2010, the Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Initiative has made impressive progress in raising awareness of and implementing ethical collaboration within the medical device and biopharmaceutical sectors. Australian representatives at APEC meetings have advocated for a more embracing and holistic approach, seeking also to more actively involve clinicians, professional groups, hospitals and health services, regulators and consumer groups.

In response to APEC's strategy to encourage member economies to develop consensus frameworks for ethical collaboration, the Australian healthcare sector has adopted a purposeful and particularly inclusive approach to raising the standards of ethical collaboration through the development of what will be the world's largest consensus framework to-date.

On behalf of the ACF leadership team, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all parties for their contribution, goodwill and positive spirit, as a consequence of which this inaugural statement has developed, achieving consensus amongst so many parties from varying sectors within health and education.

We acknowledge the support of the Federal Minister of Health, the Honourable Mr Greg Hunt, and the Federal Department of Health, which has provided secretariat support throughout the development of the ACF since December 2017.

Special mention must go to Professor Ian Kerridge of the Royal Australian College of Physicians and to Associate Professor Wendy Lipworth from Praxis Australia for their expert guidance in drafting versions of the statement.

Finally, I would like to thank the ACF leadership team comprising Ian Burgess, CEO MTAA, Deborah Monk, Policy Director, Medicines Australia, Krister Partel, Advocacy Director, Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association and Greg Witherow, Councillor, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, for their advice and wisdom in guiding the process over the past eight months.

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There is much to be done... and we are only at the start. However, we are all driven by a shared objective... to do the right thing.

With thanks,



Adrian Cosenza

Chair

Australian Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration in the Healthcare Sector

Chief Executive Officer

Australian Orthopaedic Association

20 July 2018



FOREWORD

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Purpose and Goals

Since 2010, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has supported the development of statements articulating ethical principles for business and the healthcare sector in order to maximise the interests of patients and consumers, enhance access to safe and effective healthcare, and build public trust. APEC statements of ethical principles have been developed or are under development in a number of APEC member economies.

The Australian “Consensus Statement of Shared Values and Ethical Principles for Collaboration and Interaction among Organisations in the Healthcare Sector” is a government-supported, sector-led initiative that has been developed collaboratively by professional bodies, industry organisations, hospital and health services associations, regulators, patient and advocacy groups and other related organisations.

The Australian Consensus Statement does not replace existing statements, codes and guidelines, nor does it supersede, relace or re-interpret relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory laws and regulations.

The Australian Consensus Statement describes the values and ethical principles that should form the basis of collaboration and interaction among organisations in the healthcare sector, and aims to:

- Promote collaboration and interaction among healthcare sector organisations and those who work within them that benefits patients, consumers, students, educators, communities, populations, healthcare systems and the healthcare sector.
- Encourage better dialogue, trust and respect between and amongst organisations in and working with the healthcare sector.
- Enhance the integrity and trustworthiness of organisations in the healthcare sector.
- Promote public confidence and trust in healthcare sector organisations by demonstrating a shared commitment to integrity and ethics.

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Statement of principles for collaboration and interaction

Substantive principles

Those working together and/or making collaborative judgements and decisions should give due consideration to:

- *Benefit and welfare:* Acting in ways that advance the health, wellbeing and interests of patients, consumers, communities, populations, healthcare systems and the healthcare sector, and that avoid or minimise harm.
- *Justice:* Fair distribution of access, opportunities, and privileges, and reduction of socio-political and economic inequity. Justice also refers to fairness in the processes that allocate resources and resolve disputes.
- *Respect for patients, consumers, communities, students, educators, colleagues and organisations:* All interactions and activities are respectful of the dignity, worth, rights, beliefs, values, preferences, customs and cultural heritage of all involved.
- *Solidarity:* A collective commitment to equitably sharing costs and benefits for the good of a group, community, nation or global population.
- *Effectiveness, efficiency, safety, sustainability:* Continuous commitment to improving outcomes in healthcare through promotion of responsible innovation, generation and utilisation of evidence, economic cooperation, reduction of waste, and productive utilisation of limited resources.

Procedural principles

Collaborations and interactions should be characterised by:

- *Honesty:* Those engaged in collaborations are truthful in all their interactions.
- *Integrity:* Those engaged in collaborations are alert to competing and conflicting personal, professional and organisational interests and to the management of bias.
- *Reflexivity:* There is ongoing critical reflection on the values, principles and evidence underpinning collaborative judgments and actions.
- *Transparency:* The processes of collaboration, and the values, principles and evidence upon which decisions are made, are open to scrutiny.

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PRINCIPLES

- *Inclusiveness and shared understanding:* All relevant stakeholders should participate in collaborations in order to learn from one another and work together respectfully to generate mutually agreed outcomes.
- *Responsibility and accountability:* Those involved in collaborative processes take responsibility for, are able to explain, and are accountable for, their actions and decisions.
- *Reasonableness:* Those involved in collaborations act, and make decisions, on the basis of rationales that are widely accepted as relevant and fair.
- *Testability:* The judgments and decisions made by those engaging in collaboration are open to independent verification and revision.
- *Revisability:* There are procedures in place for appeals and for revising collaborative judgments and decisions in the light of challenges to them.
- *Oversight:* There are mechanisms in place to ensure that the principles described above are given due consideration.

Implementation of consensus principles

- Signatories should work to align their own policies and processes with the consensus principles and should take the principles into account in all of their activities including education and training, research, advocacy, purchasing and resource allocation, and policymaking.
- Signatories will commit to these principles being the basis for collaboration and interaction both within the healthcare sector and between healthcare and other relevant sectors, including social care, aged care, disability services and so forth.

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Government Endorsement

Jurisdictions Supporting

- Federal Member for Flinders, Minister for Health, Minister for Sport – The Honourable Gregory Hunt MP
- NSW – The Honourable Brad Hazzard MP Minister for Health and the Minister for Medical Research
- ACT – The Honourable Meegan Fitzharris MLA Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Transport and City Services and Higher Education, Training and Research.
- NT – The Honourable Natasha Fyles MLA Minister for Health
- VIC – The Honourable Jill Hennessy MP Minister for Health Minister for Ambulance Services
- TAS – The Honourable Michael Ferguson MP Minister for Health
- WA – The Honourable Roger Cook MLA Minister for Health
- QLD – The Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services
- SA – The Honourable Stephen Wade MLC Minister for Health and Wellbeing

ENDORSEMENT

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

SIGNATORIES



Steven McMahon

Steven McMahon
President
Arthroplasty Society
of Australia



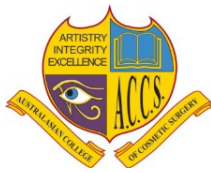
Jason Ridgway

Jason Ridgway
President
Audiology Australia



Neale Fong

Neale Fong
President
Australasian College of Health
Service Management



Ron Bezic
President
Australasian College
of Cosmetic Surgery



THE AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF
PHLEBOLOGY

Simon Thibault

Simon Thibault
Censor in Chief
Australasian College
of Phlebology



Adam Casticum

Adam Casticum
President
Australasian College of Sport
and Exercise Physicians



David Sherring

David Sherring
President
Australian and New Zealand
Association of Oral
and Maxillofacial Surgeons



David Scott
President

Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists



Marty Nichols

Marty Nichols
Chair
Australian and New Zealand
College of Paramedicine



Eddy Strivens

Eddy Strivens
President
Australian and New Zealand
Society for Geriatric Medicine



Bernie Bourke

Bernie Bourke
President
Australian and New Zealand
Society for Vascular Surgery



AUSTRALIAN DENTAL
ASSOCIATION

Hugo Sachs

Hugo Sachs
President
Australian Dental Association

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

SIGNATORIES



Alison Verhoeven

Alison Verhoeven
Chief Executive
Australian Healthcare and
Hospitals Association



Adrian Cosenza

Adrian Cosenza
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Orthopaedic
Association

L.P. Malisano

Lawrence Malisano
President
Australian Orthopaedic
Association



Bruce Caldwell

Bruce Caldwell
President
Australian Knee Society



Andrew Dixon

Andrew Dixon
President
Australian Orthopaedic
Association Medico Legal
Society



Alison Taylor

Alison Taylor
President
Australian Orthopaedic Foot
and Ankle Society



Marinis Pirpiris

Marinis Pirpiris
President
Australian Orthopaedic
Trauma Society



Kate Stannage

Kate Stannage
President
Australian Paediatric
Orthopaedic Society



Adrian Cosenza

Adrian Cosenza
Chair
Australasian Sarcoma Study
Group



Peter Steadman

Peter Steadman
President
Australian Sarcoma Group



Deon Schoombie

Deon Schoombie
Chief Executive Officer
Australia Self Medication
Industry



Peter Eastwood

Peter Eastwood
President
Australian Sleep Association

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

SIGNATORIES



Peter Seal
Vice President
Australian Society
of Anaesthetists



Jill Smith
Chief Executive Officer
Australasian Society of Clinical
Immunology and Allergy



Peter Sumich
President
Australian Society
of Ophthalmologists



Phillip Fisher
Vice President
Australian Society of
Otolaryngology Head and
Neck Surgery



Keith Bryant
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Society of Plastic
Surgeons



Robert Medhurst
Vice President
Australian Traditional
Medicine Society



Carl Gibson
Chief Executive Officer
Complementary Medicines
Australia



Anthony Lawson
Chair
Consumers Health Forum
of Australia



Jane Griffiths
Chief Executive Officer
Day Hospitals Australia



Fiona Bailey
Chief Executive Officer
Gastroenterological Society
of Australia



Ian Burgess
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Technology
Association of Australia



Elizabeth de Somer
Chief Executive Officer
Medicines Australia

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

SIGNATORIES



NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH
ALLIANCE LTD

Mark Diamond

Mark Diamond
Chief Executive Officer
National Rural Health Alliance



Christopher Lind

Christopher Lind
President
Neurological Society
of Australia



Peter Turner

Peter Turner
Chair
NPS Medicinewise



Promoting Ethics and
Education in Research

Ian Kerridge
Director
Praxis Australia



Private Healthcare Australia
Better Cover. Better Access. Better Care.

Rachel David
Chief Executive Officer
Private Healthcare Australia



RACP
Specialists. Together
EDUCATE ADVOCATE INNOVATE

Mark Lane
President
Royal Australasian College
of Physicians



Mary Harney

Mary Harney
Chief Executive Officer
Royal Australasian College
of Surgeons

John Batten

John Batten
President
Royal Australasian College
of Surgeons



Steve Robson

Steve Robson
President
Royal Australian and New Zealand
College of Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists



Mark Daniell

Mark Daniell
President
Royal Australian and New
Zealand College
of Ophthalmologists



Kym Jenkins

Kym Jenkins
President
Royal Australian and New
Zealand College
of Psychiatrists



Deborah Graves

Deborah Graves
Chief Executive Officer
The Royal College of
Pathologists of Australasia

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Allan Wang

Allan Wang
President
Shoulder and Elbow Society
of Australia



Michael Dooley
President
Society of Hospital
Pharmacists of Australia



Michael Johnson

Michael Johnson
President
Spine Society of Australia



Catriona Jackson

Catriona Jackson
CEO
Universities Australia



Allan R Glanville

Allan R Glanville
President
Thoracic Society
of Australia and New Zealand

SIGNATORIES

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The ACF also acknowledges contribution to the consensus framework from the following parties. Parties are free to participate, contribute and become signatories at the time that best suits each individual party's circumstances.

- Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
- Australasian College of Dermatologists
- Australasian Society of Immunology
- Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons
- Australian College of Nursing
- Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
- Australian Dental Industry Association
- Australian Medical Association
- Australian Private Hospitals Association
- Chiropractors' Association of Australia
- Health Consumers Council of WA
- In Vitro Diagnostics Australia
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia
- Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand

CONTRIBUTORS

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

20 July 2018

Dear Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Initiative,

On behalf of the Australian Consensus Framework leadership team and signatories, it is our pleasure to present the first concluded version of this agreement during the Plenary Session of the 2018 APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum on 20 July 2018 in Tokyo, Japan. The Australian Consensus Framework, the largest arrangement of its kind in the world today, demonstrates our economy's commitment to strengthening ethical business practices above and beyond the commitments of the APEC Nanjing Declaration on Promoting Ethical Environments in the Medical Device and Biopharmaceutical Sectors.

We believe the Australian Consensus Framework is well positioned to serve as an enduring platform to strengthen healthcare in Australia as well as an international model for other economies to examine and consider in their collective action to achieve the same goal. We look forward to continuing to heighten our partnership with the Business Ethics for APEC SMEs Initiative as the Australian Consensus Framework is implemented and as the APEC region scales its focus on multi-stakeholder ethical collaboration.

Jane Fitzpatrick

Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians

Alison Verhoeven

Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA)

Peter Subramaniam

Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery (ANZVS)

Adrian Cosenza

Australian Orthopaedic Association

Andreas Loeffler

Australian Orthopaedic Association

Sophie Hibburd

Medicines Australia

Michelle Wagner

Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA)

Jo Watson

Consumers Health Forum

In the presence of

Tracey Duffy

Therapeutic Goods Administration
Federal Department of Health

SUBMISSION TO APEC