



DIETITIANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

BY-LAW

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

For members with Australian recognised dietetic qualifications,
and non-members with APD status

(By-law Made Pursuant to Clauses 9, 21, 36 of the [Constitution](#))

Revised March 2013

Purpose

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is a self-regulatory professional body which sets standards for practice, fosters professionalism and provides a mechanism for internal disciplinary procedures for the protection of members, the public and the credibility of the profession.

The *Code of Professional Conduct* sets minimum national standards for accountable conduct which promotes the health of the public and engenders confidence in the services provided by members and non-member Accredited Practising Dietitians.

Those subject to this Code of Practice shall adhere to the *Constitution*, By-laws, rules of the Association, and all laws of the Commonwealth.

The attached *Statement of Ethical Practice* provides the principles underpinning the *Code of Professional Conduct* for the members of the Association with Australian recognised dietetic qualifications, and non-members with APD status who are equally referred to as practitioners in this code.

1. Definition

Practice, for the purpose of this By-law, is considered in the broadest terms to cover any activity considered to be within the accepted scope of a Dietitian/ Nutritionist's work.

2. Criteria Governing Professional Conduct.

There are two criteria under which the complaints and disciplinary process may be activated.

a) *Unsatisfactory professional conduct*

defined as:

- conduct 'happening in connection with the practice of dietetics that falls short of the standard of competence and diligence that a member of the public or the practitioner's peers is entitled to expect of a reasonably competent Dietitian/Nutritionist'.

b) *Professional misconduct*

defined as:

- 'conduct which involves a substantial or consistent failure to reach or maintain a reasonable standard of competence and diligence'; or
- conduct happening in connection with the practice of Nutrition/ Dietetics or otherwise that would, if established, justify a finding that the practitioner is not a fit and proper person to continue to be a member of the Association and engage in Nutrition and Dietetic practice.

Professional misconduct may include being convicted of a criminal offence.

If a complaint has been made against a practitioner under the *Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure By-law*, and that practitioner breaches the *Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure By-law* by contacting, or attempting to contact either:

- (a) a Director of the DAA Board; or
- (b) the person who made the complaint against them

in relation to the complaint then this may amount to professional misconduct.

3. Application of the Code of Professional Conduct

It is the responsibility of each practitioner to evaluate practice and maintain competence as well as to evaluate the professional standards and contribute to the objects of the Association.

The *Code of Professional Conduct* shall be adopted by all members with Australian recognised dietetic qualifications, and non-members with APD status to ensure that they will continue to be recognised by the public as the most valued and credible source of food and nutrition information.

Practitioners have a responsibility to inform relevant organisations of violators of the DAA *Code of Professional Conduct* and other laws.

The *Code of Professional Conduct* is enforced by DAA under the *Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure By-law* and reviewed from time to time.