

## 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](#))

## PURPOSE

Dietitians Australia (DA) 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 DA 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 DA *Code of Professional Conduct* and other laws.

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