

BY-LAW

Code of Professional Conduct

For members without Australian recognised dietetic qualifications and non-member Accredited Nutritionists

(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 without Australian recognised dietetic qualifications and non-member Accredited Nutritionists who are equally referred to here as practitioners.

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 members without Australian recognised dietetic qualifications and non-member Accredited Nutritionists.

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 Nutritionist's work. A nutritionist, for the purpose of this By-law is a tertiary qualified nutrition professional who has the expertise to provide a range of nutrition services including research, community and public health nutrition, and nutrition communication and education; but excluding individual dietary counselling, medical nutrition therapy and group dietary therapy

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 nutrition 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 Nutritionist'.

(b) Professional misconduct

defined as:

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- ‘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 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 or non-member Accredited Nutritionist and engage in Nutrition practice.

Professional misconduct may include being convicted of a criminal offence.

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 without Australian recognised dietetic qualifications and non-member Accredited Nutritionists to ensure that they will be recognised by the public as a 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.