

Statement of Ethical Practice

For members with Australian recognised dietetic qualifications, and non-members with APD status (referred to as practitioners in this Statement)

The objective of Dietitians Australia's (DA) *Statement of Ethical Practice* is to identify fundamental values and principles for practitioners.

The *Statement of Ethical Practice* offers guidance when making decisions. It does not specify how to make decisions or to act in particular situations.

Ethical standards help ensure consistent approaches and high standards.

The *Statement of Ethical Practice* indicates to the community, values which practitioners hold.

DA encourages debate and discussion to keep practitioners abreast of contemporary issues.

DA also subscribes to the principles and aspirations of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and other international conventions derived from the Declaration.

A practitioner embraces the values and principles in DA's vision and mission:

DA is the leading voice in Nutrition and Dietetics supporting members, advocating for our profession, and building healthier communities.

VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Being ethical means:

Practitioners act lawfully and responsibly and are accountable for their decision making.

Practitioners will:

- act within the letter and the spirit of the law and accept the standards of DA
- be accountable for their decision making and have a moral and legal obligation for the provision of safe and competent service delivery
- have an ethical responsibility to report unsafe and unethical practice and support colleagues who appropriately notify the relevant authorities of such practice
- respect the collaborative nature of comprehensive health care with recognition and respect for the perspective and expertise of other health professionals
- acknowledge the contribution of colleagues and any other sources of original material in their work.

Practitioners will be honest and fair with members of the public, colleagues, employers and employees.

Practitioners will:

- ensure that they do not exploit relationships with clients for emotional, sexual or financial gain
- identify and manage conflicts of interest
- not use inaccurate or misleading ways to promote their services (including refraining from use of client testimonials regarding clinical services) or products, or accept undisclosed private financial benefits
- factually represent themselves and their services.
- treat their colleagues with fairness, honesty, courtesy, respect and good faith.
- apply natural justice when dealing with clients and colleagues
- provide services within the legal requirements of work place health, welfare and safety and workplace requirements.

Practitioners will respect individual's needs, values, culture and privacy.

Practitioners will:

- ensure provision of non-discriminatory services to all people regardless of age, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, race, and mental or physical status
- respect the rights of individuals to make informed choices
- respect the confidences and trust in their relationships with clients
- promote a professional relationship and maintain appropriate professional boundaries between themselves and those for whom they provide services.

Practitioners will maintain their professional competence and provide evidence based practice and quality service.

Practitioners will:

- recognise the limits of competence, referring to the most appropriate provider if necessary
- continually update and extend professional knowledge and skills through such activities as attending professional development or seeking a mentor
- be required to practice within current evidence based practice
- limit their provision of advice about alternate therapies to those who voluntarily seek it and only about therapies for which there is documented scientific peer reviewed evidence of effectiveness
- understand and respect diversity of nutrition and dietetic practice
- promote an ecological, social and economic environment which supports health and well being.