

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 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

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

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 MTA, 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.

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.

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

- *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.

PRINCIPLES

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 SUPPORT

ENDORISING JURISDICTIONS

- 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
- 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

IN-PRINCIPLE SUPPORT

- TAS – The Honourable Michael Ferguson MP Minister for Health

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

SIGNATORIES



Stephen McMahon

Stephen McMahon
President
Arthroplasty Society
of Australia



David Sinclair
Executive Officer
Assistive Technology Suppliers
Australia



Jason Ridgway

Jason Ridgway
President
Audiology Australia



Australian
College of
Nursing

Kylie Ward

Kylie Ward
CEO
Australian College of Nursing



The Australian Hand
Surgery Society

Michael Sandow

Michael Sandow
President
Australian Hand Surgery Society



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE
OF DERMATOLOGISTS

Andrew Miller

Andrew Miller
President
Australasian College of
Dermatologists



Neale Fong

Neale Fong
President
Australasian College of Health
Service Management



Ron Bezic
President
Australasian College of
Cosmetic Surgery



AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR
EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Simon Judkins

Simon Judkins
President
Australasian College for
Emergency Medicine



THE AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF
PHLEBOLOGY

Simon Thibault

Simon Thibault
Censor in Chief
Australasian College of
Phlebology



Delaine Smith

Delaine Smith
CEO
Australasian Leukemia and
Lymphoma Group



David Sherring

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

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

SIGNATORIES



David Scott
President
Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists



Marty Nichols
Chair
Australian and New Zealand
College of Paramedicine



Adrian Cosenza
Chair
Australia and New Zealand
Sarcoma Association



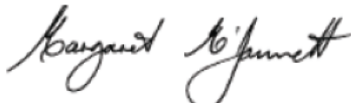
Trevor Fyers
President
Australian and New Zealand
Society of Cardiac and Thoracic
Surgeons



Eddy Strivens
President
Australian and New Zealand
Society for Geriatric Medicine
of the Australian



Bernie Bourke
President
Australian and New Zealand
Society for Vascular Surgery



Margaret McJannett
CEO
Australian and New Zealand
Urogenital and Prostate Cancer
Trials Group



Adam Castricum
President
Australian College of Sport and
Exercise Physicians



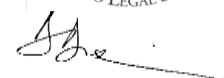
Hugo Sachs
President
Australian Dental Association



Alison Verhoeven
Chief Executive
Australian Healthcare and
Hospitals Association




Bruce Caldwell
President
Australian Knee Society




Andrew Dixon
President
Association Medical Legal
Society

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR


SIGNATORIES




AOA
AUSTRALIAN
ORTHOPAEDIC
ASSOCIATION




Lawrence Malisano
President
Australian Orthopaedic
Association




AOA
AUSTRALIAN
ORTHOPAEDIC
ASSOCIATION



Adrian Cosenza
CEO
Australian Orthopaedic
Association



**AUSTRALIAN ORTHOPAEDIC
Foot & Ankle
SOCIETY**




Alison Taylor
President
Australian Orthopaedic Foot
and Ankle Society




AOTS
Australian Orthopaedic
Trauma Society



Marinis Pirpiris
President
Australian Orthopaedic Trauma
Society



APOS
Australian Paediatric
Orthopaedic Society



Kate Stannage
President
Australian Paediatric
Orthopaedic Society



**australian
pharmacy
council**




Bronwyn Clark
CEO
Australian Pharmacy Council




**Australian
Private Hospitals
Association**




Michael Roff
CEO
Australian Private Hospital
Association




**AUSTRALIAN
SARCOMA
GROUP**
A Multidisciplinary Cancer Group




Peter Steadman
President
Australian Sarcoma Group



**AUSTRALIAN
sleep
ASSOCIATION**




Peter Eastwood
President
Australian Sleep Association



ASA
Australian Society of Anaesthetists

Peter Seal
Vice President
Australian Society of
Anaesthetists



ascia
australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

Jil Smith
CEO
Australian Society of Clinical
Immunology and Allergy



**Australian Society
of Ophthalmologists**



Peter Sumich
President
Australian Society of
Ophthalmologists

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

SIGNATORIES



PH Fisher

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



Australian Society
of Plastic Surgeons

Keith Bryant

Keith Bryant
CEO
Australian Society of Plastic
Surgeons



Robert Medhurst

Robert Medhurst
Vice President
Australian Traditional Medicine
Society



Soozy J Smith

Soozy J Smith
CEO
Breast Cancer Trials



Dwayne Crombie

Dwayne Crombie
Managing Director
BUPA



Deon Schoombie

Deon Schoombie
CEO
Consumer Healthcare Products
Australia



Anthony Lawson

Anthony Lawson
Chair
Consumers Health Forum of
Australia



Carl Gibson

Carl Gibson
CEO
Complementary Medicines
Australia



COSMETIC PHYSICIANS
COLLEGE
OF AUSTRALASIA

Sean Arendse

Sean Arendse
Secretary
Cosmetic Physicians College of
Australasia



Jane Griffiths

Jane Griffiths
CEO
Day Hospitals Australia



Fiona Bailey

Fiona Bailey
CEO
Gastroenterological Society of
Australia



Sarah Benson
Executive General
Manager
General Surgeons Australia

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR



SIGNATORIES




Ian Burgess
CEO
Medical Technology Association
of Australia






Elizabeth de Somer
CEO
Medicines Australia

Elizabeth Paton
CEO
Melanoma and Skin
Cancer Trials






Rob Anderson
CEO
Musculoskeletal Australia

Peter Turner
President
National Prescribing Service
(NPS) Medicinewise





Mark Diamond
CEO
National Rural Health Alliance

Christopher Lind
President
Neurological Society of
Australia




Carol Bennett
CEO
Pain Australia



Ian Kerridge
Director
Praxis Australia




Rachel David
CEO
Private Healthcare Australia




Karen Luxford
CEO
Royal Australasian College of
Dental Surgeons




Mark Lane
President
Royal Australasian College of
Physicians

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

SIGNATORIES



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

John Batten
President
Royal Australasian College of
Surgeons



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN
COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Mary Harney
CEO
Royal Australasian College of
Surgeons



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



Mark Daniell
President
Royal Australian and New
Zealand College of
Ophthalmologists



Harry Nespolon
President
Royal Australian College of
General Practitioners



Kym Jenkins
President
Royal Australian and New
Zealand College of Psychiatrists



Deborah Graves
CEO
Royal College of Pathologists of
Australasia



Allan Wang
President
Shoulder and Elbow Society of
Australia



Lynette Hunt
CEO
Skin Cancer College



Michael Dooley
President
Society of Hospital Pharmacists
of Australia



Michael Johnson
President
Spine Society of Australia



Allan Glanville
President
The Thoracic Society of
Australia and New Zealand

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**UNIVERSITIES
AUSTRALIA**



Catriona Jackson
CEO
Universities Australia



**UROLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA
AND NEW ZEALAND**



Peter Heathcote
President
Urological Society of Australia
& New Zealand

SIGNATORIES



AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

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 Society of Immunology
- Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
- Australian Dental Industry Association
- Australian Medical Association
- Chiropractors' Association of Australia
- Health Consumers Council of WA
- In Vitro Diagnostics Australia
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia

CONTRIBUTORS

AUSTRALIAN CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL COLLABORATION IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

SUBMISSION TO APEC

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



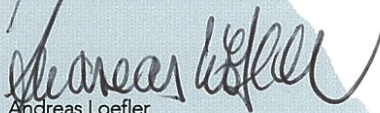
Alison Verhoeven
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA)




Peter Subramaniam
Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery (ANZVS)



Adrian Cosenza
Australian Orthopaedic Association



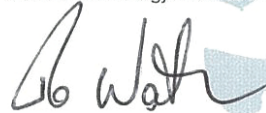
Andreas Loeffler
Australian Orthopaedic Association



Sophie Hibburd
Medicines Australia



Michelle Wagner
Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA)

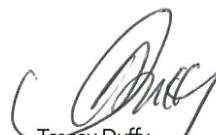


Jo Watson
Consumers Health Forum

In the presence of



Mr Bassim Blazey
Deputy Head of Mission
Australian Embassy in Japan



Tracey Duffy
Therapeutic Goods Administration
Federal Department of Health