

DIETITIANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
BY-LAW
CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
(By-law Made Pursuant to Clauses 9, 21, 37 of the *Constitution*)
Revised May 2006

Purpose

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is a self-regulatory professional body which sets standards for best 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.

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 and 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 member's peers is entitled to expect of a reasonably competent Dietitian and 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 and 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 Dietetic 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 member 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 to ensure that they will continue to be recognised by the public as the most valued and credible source of food and nutrition information.

Members 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.