

## Conflict of Interest Guideline

---

Effective date: February 2018

### Background

The Psychology Board of Australia (the Board) recognises the important duty of good faith applicable to Members. The Board is committed to doing its utmost to encourage Members to observe this duty through avoiding actual conflicts of interest and the perception, whether founded or not, of a conflict of interest.

This document is to be read in conjunction with the Guidelines for Board and Committee Members with respect of Conflict of Interest (July 2011).

### Aim

The aim of this guideline is to:

1. Foster a culture of awareness by Members of the need to disclose and manage conflicts of interest, whether potential, actual or perceived.
2. Give confidence to AHPRA, Stakeholders and registrants that the Board and Members are aware at all times of the duty to act in the interests of the Board and not in anyone else's interests.
3. Ensure that Members adhere to the provisions of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act of 2009 and the Australian Psychological Society Code of Ethics, which are endorsed by the Board for the profession. .
4. Provide guidance to Members and potential Members of situations in which there may be a conflict of interests and which they should avoid or should seek guidance from the Board.

### Definitions

**Member** is a member of the Psychology Board of Australia or a regional board or committee of the Psychology Board of Australia.

**Stakeholder** is an organisation associated with the profession or discipline of psychology, and includes, but is not restricted to, the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC), the Australian Psychological Society (APS), the Australian Clinical Psychology Association (ACPA), the Australian College of Specialist Psychologists, the Association of Australian Psychologists Inc (AAPi), the Heads of Schools of Psychology Association (HODSPA), the Institute of Private Practising Psychologists (IPPP) or any other similar organisation.

### Guidelines

1. A conflict of interest is a real, perceived or potential conflict, bias or influence between the personal or business interests of a Member and the Member's duty to act in the interests of the Board.
2. In any situation of conflict, a Member's duties and responsibilities are to the Board, not to any other body (such as Stakeholders, your employer or other business interests).
3. Members must be familiar with and adhere to the requirements of Schedule 4 of Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act of 2009.

4. No Member may serve or be a board member, executive officer, office bearer, salaried employee or contractor of a Stakeholder.
5. Members hold other elected positions in a Stakeholder only with the consent of the Board and must accept the Board's directive when required to discontinue serving in that position.

#### **Authorisation**

Psychology Board of Australia

Meeting date: 23 February 2018

#### **Review**

The Board will review this policy at least every three years