



AACMA

Code of Conduct

All Members, Board and administrative staff (Representatives) are required to comply with this AACMA Code of Conduct. This Code applies at all times, including during attendance at AACMA functions (including social functions and celebrations) and whilst attending conferences.

1. HONOUR OUR HISTORY

AACMA Representatives should respect and honour the history of Chinese Medicine and the role of AACMA.

- Representatives shall conduct themselves in a manner that will not undermine public confidence in the practice of Chinese medicine and which maintains and builds on the professional standing of Chinese medicine in Australia and throughout the world.

- Representatives will comply with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Code of Conduct for registered health practitioners as published from time to time.

- Representatives will abide by their obligations under the AACMA Constitution, Policies, Guidelines and By-Laws currently in force at all times.
- Representatives must not, through their actions, bring shame, disrespect or cause harm to AACMA, its members, public brand or the profession.

2. ACT WITH INTEGRITY

AACMA Representatives will act fairly and honestly in all dealings with their patients, other professionals, their peers, the Association and the community.

- Representatives must ensure compliance with all Australian laws, regulations and acceptable professional standards including, but not restricted to, health practitioner registration, informed consent, research, confidentiality and privacy, workplace health and safety and anti-discrimination legislation.
- Representatives will not abuse the role of third-party providers such as health funds and workers compensation insurers.
- Representatives will always act with care and diligence in the best interests of individuals, the community and the Association to avoid or minimise harm.

- Representatives will at all times conduct a culturally safe and sensitive practice within the bounds of their qualifications, education, training, current experience and competence.
- Representatives will immediately inform the Association of any criminal charges made against them, any suspension of their right to practise or disciplinary action taken against them by any State or Federal entity or other parties.

3. RESPECT OUR COMMUNITY

AACMA Representatives should always respect the autonomy of individuals; their rights, needs, confidentiality, dignity, regardless of their race, religion, age, gender, sexual and gender diversity, or other individual differences.

- Representatives have a responsibility to always conduct and present themselves in a professional manner, and demonstrate respect for all persons, whether fellow Members, Board or administrative staff, patients or members of the public. Representatives must:
 - treat fellow Members, board and administrative staff, patients and members of the public with courtesy, compassion and respect at all times, be appropriate in their relationships with them, and recognise that others have the right to hold views which may differ from their own;
 - acknowledge the right of another person to make their own choices, decisions and actions based on their values, beliefs and culture, and support them in that right to act autonomously;
 - ensure their fitness for duty, and the safety, health and welfare of themselves and others;
 - ensure their private conduct maintains the integrity of the practice of Chinese medicine;
 - be open and honest in communication and treat complaints from patients and the community seriously, participating in any complaint process if a complaint is brought against them;
 - distinguish in public statements in which reference is made to AACMA, for example on social media, whether they are acting as an authorised spokesperson of AACMA or in a private capacity;

- maintain appropriate professional boundaries and address, in a timely manner and through an appropriate channel, any behaviour in a colleague that is either incompatible with this code or impinges on the rights of patients and their families or contravenes the law.

- Representatives must not improperly use inside information or the person's duties, status, power or authority in connection with AACMA:
 - to gain, or seek to gain, a benefit or an advantage for themselves or any other person; or
 - to cause, or to seek to cause, detriment to AACMA or any other person.

- Representatives understand that Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine form part of an integrated health care system and will communicate and co-operate with colleagues, other healthcare professionals and relevant third parties with mutual respect and clear communication in the best interest of their patients and the wider community, behaving professionally and courteously to colleagues and other practitioners at all times, including when using social media.

4. LEAD WITH PASSION

AACMA Representatives strive to be leaders in their profession whether that is through their practice or their service to the community and Chinese Medicine as a whole.

- Representatives strive for standards of excellence and competency in the practice of Chinese Medicine.
- Representatives undertake to maintain their professional competence (knowledge, skills and professional behaviour) and stay informed of professional developments through ongoing education and training, ensuring they meet the standards required for exemplary and contemporary practice;

- Representatives will:
 - share professional knowledge and insights with colleagues;
 - respect the skills, knowledge and experience of colleagues; and

- be generous in using their skills and knowledge to enhance the practical fieldwork education of students.