

**The Statistical Society of Australia Inc.**  
(Incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory)

**Code of Conduct**

**Introduction**

**Authority**

**Rules of professional conduct**

**The public interest**

**Duty to employers and clients**

**Duty to the profession**

**Professional competence and integrity**

**Disciplinary procedures**

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**1. Introduction**

The overall objective of the Statistical Society of Australia Incorporated (SSAI) and its branches is to further the study and application of statistical theory and methods in all branches of learning and enterprise. In general, the public has no ready means of judging the quality of professional service except from the reputation of the provider. Membership of an association of professionals, such as the SSAI, will often be taken by the public as an assurance of ability and integrity. It is therefore essential that the highest standards are maintained by all members of the SSAI whenever they are acting professionally and whatever their level of qualification. In common with professional bodies in other fields, the Society has formulated its own rules as a Code of Conduct to define the behaviour expected of Society members practising in everyday professional life. This code of conduct has been drawn up to reflect the standards of conduct and work expected of all practising statisticians. It is a guideline for all members of the SSAI and is mandatory for all accredited members.

**2. Authority**

The authority for the SSAI Code of Conduct derives from its formal adoption by the SSAI at the AGM of 7 July, 1998. The Society binds itself to observe the principles of the code.

**3. Rules of Professional Conduct**

As an aid to understanding, these rules have been grouped into the principal duties which all members should endeavour to discharge in pursuing their professional lives.

**3.1 The Public Interest**

- 1 Members shall ensure that within their chosen fields they have appropriate knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation, regulations and standards and that they comply with such requirements.
- 2 Members shall in their professional statistical practice have regard to procedures designed to ensure the highest ethical standards. In particular, members shall ensure that the collection of information and the publication of results shall observe relevant privacy laws.
- 3 Members are encouraged to advance public knowledge and understanding of statistics and to counter false or misleading statements. Members shall not make any public statement in their professional capacity unless competent to do so and, where appropriate, authorised to do so.

### **3.2 Duty to Employers and Clients**

- 4 Members shall carry out work with due care and diligence in accordance with the requirements of the employer or client and shall, if their professional judgement is overruled, indicate the likely consequences.
- 5 Members shall not disclose or authorise to be disclosed, or use for personal gain or to benefit a third party, confidential information acquired in the course of professional practice, except with prior written permission of the employer or client, or at the direction of a court of law.
- 6 Members shall declare any interests, financial or otherwise, which could be perceived as influencing the outcome of work undertaken for a client or employer.
- 7 Members should try to prevent the use of any misleading summary of data in their name. They should ensure that full disclosure is made of all assumptions and caveats.

### **3.3 Duty to the Profession**

- 8 Members shall uphold the reputation of the Profession and shall seek to improve professional standards through participation in their development, use and enforcement, and shall avoid any action which will adversely affect the good standing of Statistics and Statisticians.
- 9 Members shall not speak in the name of the Society without the authorisation of the Executive Committee of the Society.
- 10 Members shall encourage and support fellow members in their professional development and, where possible, provide opportunities for the development of new entrants to the Profession.
- 11 Members shall act with integrity towards fellow statisticians and to members of other professions with whom they are concerned in a professional capacity, and shall avoid engaging in any activity which is incompatible with their professional status. Whilst members of the Society are free to engage in controversy, no member shall cast doubt on the professional competence of another without good cause.

### **3.4 Professional Competence and Integrity**

- 12 Members shall seek to upgrade their professional knowledge and skill and shall maintain awareness of technological developments, procedures and standards which are relevant to their field, and shall encourage their colleagues to do likewise.
- 13 Members shall seek to conform to recognised good practice including quality standards which are in their judgement relevant, and shall encourage their colleagues to do likewise.
- 14 Members shall only offer to do work or provide service which is within their professional competence and shall not lay claim to any level of competence which they do not possess.
- 15 Members shall accept professional responsibility for work in their name, and any professional assessment which they are asked to give shall be objective and reliable.
- 16 Members should set out in writing any conflict, potential or actual, with the interests of the client or employer.

### **3.5 Disciplinary Procedures**

- 17 A member is expected to act at all times in a manner likely to be judged by informed, respected, and experienced peers in possession of all the facts as the most ethical way to act in the circumstances. This code sets out certain basic principles that are intended to help members maintain the highest standards of professional conduct. Should a case arise where a member is believed to have wilfully acted in a manner which violates these principles then the disciplinary and appeal procedures set out in Rules 36 and 37 of the Society shall apply.