



INTRODUCTION

The Management Committee of Wildcare Australia Inc is committed to ethical conduct in providing the best possible service to both its members and the general community. This policy has been developed to provide an ethical framework for all Committee Members, Coordinators and Volunteers of the Organisation.

This policy applies to the Management Committee, Coordinators and all members/volunteers.

PURPOSE OF POLICY:-

The purpose of this document is to identify Wildcare Australia Inc's position on ethics and proper practice and to document the standards expected in providing a service to its members and the community.

POLICY:-

The Management Committee and volunteers of Wildcare Australia Inc have a legal and moral responsibility to manage the organisation in the best interests of the members and the community it serves. Committee Members and volunteers will demonstrate professional ethical behaviour at all times – in their responsibilities to the organisation, in their professional relationships with each other, and in their professional service to the community – and will be required to adhere to this code of ethics.

The Management Committee shall:

- Be diligent, attend Committee meetings and devote sufficient time to preparation for meetings to allow for full and appropriate participation in the Committee's decision-making.
- Observe confidentiality relating to non-public information acquired by them in their role as Committee Members and not disclose such information to any other person.
- Meet regularly to monitor the performance of management and the organisation as a whole. To do this the Committee will ensure that appropriate monitoring and reporting systems are in place and that these are maintained and utilised to provide accurate and timely information to the Committee.

- Ensure that no individual has unfettered powers of decision-making.
- Ensure that the independent views of Committee members are given due consideration and weight.
- Ensure that stakeholders are provided with an accurate and balanced view of the organisation's performance, including both financial and service provision.
- Regularly review its own performance as the basis for its own development and quality assurance. Individual Committee Members should also review their own performance with a view to ensuring a suitable contribution to Committee deliberations and decision-making and, if found lacking, should either pursue training or assistance to improve their performance, or resign.
- Carry out its meetings in such a manner as to ensure fair and full participation of all Committee members.
- Ensure that the organisation's assets are protected via a suitable risk management strategy.
- Ensure that personal and financial interests do not conflict with the duty to the organisation.

Members/Volunteers shall:

- Publicly and privately support the organisation and each other, acknowledging the strengths and weaknesses of others and acting with courtesy and respect.
- Act honestly and in good faith at all times in the interests of the organisation and objects, ensuring that all members and stakeholders, particularly those who are recipients of services, are treated fairly according to their rights.
- Perform their duties as best they can, taking into account their skills, experience, qualifications and position. They shall act in a safe, responsible and effective manner.
- Be punctual and reliable in their attendance and adhere to their prescribed and authorised hours of duty.
- Comply with the prescribed terms and conditions of their volunteer agreement.
- Notify the organisation of any inability to attend duty as early as possible so as not to inconvenience others or delay the work of the organisation.
- Carry out their duties in a lawful manner and ensure the organisation carries out its business in accordance with the law, and recognise both legal and moral duties of their role.

- Respect and safeguard the property of the organisation, the public and colleagues; and observe safe work practices so as not to endanger themselves or others.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding any information gained through their volunteer work and not divulge personal information or the address or phone numbers of members/volunteers, Committee members or service users.
- Ensure that all transactions, agreements and records that flow from relationships with Wildcare Australia Inc's stakeholders will be accurately and openly recorded in the organisation's books and records, and no entries will be made which obscure the true nature of a transaction.
- Ensure that Wildcare Australia Inc will market its services with integrity and accuracy.
- Ensure that personal and financial interests do not conflict with the duty to the organisation.
- Undertake no personal or business activities for personal gain while at the organisation or while conducting business of the organisation: procedures associated with such activities will not be carried out on the organisation's computers without open and express permission of a higher authority.
- Work within the organisation's policies and principles.
- Discuss issues where appropriate with other staff and Committee members to determine whether or not a contemplated action is ethical.

Responsibility

The Wildcare Australia Inc Secretary is responsible for the implementation and review of this policy.

All Committee Members, members and volunteers are responsible for adhering to all applicable clauses.