



OPSSC

Office of the
**Public Sector
Standards
Commissioner**



CODE OF ETHICS



Code of Ethics

Introduction

A respected and trusted public sector is a vital component of a robust community. If the community is to have confidence in the public sector then public sector employees must act and be seen to act with integrity. The Code of Ethics and agency codes of conduct can help agencies and their staff to understand what is appropriate behaviour and help build respect and trust with the community.

Under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, the Commissioner for Public Sector Standards is required to establish Codes of Ethics setting out minimum standards of conduct and integrity to be complied with by public sector bodies and employees, and monitor compliance with these codes (section 21(1)(b)).

The Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics

The standards of conduct and integrity to be complied with by all public sector employees are expressed in the following principles.

Personal Integrity

We act with care and diligence and make decisions that are honest, fair, impartial, and timely, and consider all relevant information

Relationships with others

We treat people with respect, courtesy and sensitivity and recognise their interests, rights, safety and welfare

Accountability

We use the resources of the state in a responsible and accountable manner that ensures the efficient, effective and appropriate use of human, natural, financial and physical resources, property and information

This Code of Ethics applies from 1 February 2008, and replaces all previous Codes of Ethics issued by the Office of the Public Sector Standards Commissioner (OPSSC). Please ensure that previous copies of the Code of Ethics are replaced with this version. The Code of Ethics should be read in conjunction with the OPSSC Conduct Guide.

The Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics applies to all public sector employees, including chief executive officers, chief employees and ministerial staff, and public sector bodies covered by the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, which may include boards and committees established under their own legislation. All public sector employees must observe the Code of Ethics and their agency's code of conduct.