

AES Policy on the Application of the Code of Ethics

1. The Australasian Evaluation Society promotes the Code of Ethics as part of its aim to improve the theory, practice and use of evaluation.
2. In promoting the Code, the Society adopts an educative and developmental approach, seeking understanding and resolution of ethical issues through discussion and consultation.
3. Upholding the Code is a condition of membership of the Australasian Evaluation Society. A statement to this effect shall be included on membership application and membership renewal forms. By signing the form, members indicate their acceptance of this condition.
4. Members are encouraged to use the Code when faced with situations that require them to balance competing ethical principles.
5. Members are encouraged to discuss with each other any ethical dilemmas or issues that arise in relation to the Society, fellow members or the field of evaluation, using the Code as a basis for discussion. The Society will facilitate development of avenues for such discussion, including provision of access to members of the Ethics Committee where appropriate and desired.
6. Complaints about a possible breach of the Code of Ethics by a member should be forwarded in writing to the Board. It would be expected that some discussion would already have occurred between the complainant and the member in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution before any such referral is made to the Board.
7. The Board will consider the complaint to determine if it represents a possible breach of the Code, the seriousness of the matter and what, if any, further action is required-
8. If the Board decides to take further action, it may establish a Peer Review Panel to examine the complaint. Membership of the Panel will be determined by the Board in each case and will comprise at least two members of the Society, one of whom will normally be a member of the Ethics Committee. The panel may also include a person with experience in ethics, who is not a member of the AES. The Panel will examine the matters raised and may invite the parties to discuss these matters with Panel members.
9. On completion of its deliberations, the Panel will provide a confidential report with recommendations to the Board. The recommendations may include options for on-going peer review or supervision.
10. In cases in which there is a demonstrated breach of the Code that is not resolved satisfactorily through the processes outlined above, and where the Board considers that the reputation of the Society is at stake, the Board may decide to ask a member to relinquish his/her membership. Before making such a decision, the Board will provide the member with an opportunity to respond to the alleged breach and otherwise ensure that its procedures comply with the rules of natural justice. The powers and responsibilities of the Board in disciplining members are defined in Section 44 of the Society's Constitution.

(Adopted by the AES Board 12 December 2000)