



**THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL  
ACUPUNCTURE COLLEGE**

ABN 49 006 101 613

## **Australian Medical Acupuncture College Conflict of Interest Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Federal Committee (Committee) of the Australian Medical Acupuncture College (AMAC) is committed to high standards of ethical conduct and accordingly places great importance on making clear any existing or potential conflict of interest.

### **2. Purpose**

2.1 This policy has been developed to provide a framework for:

- all Committee Members in declaring conflicts of interest; and
- the Committee, when determining how to deal with situations of conflict.

### **3. Policy**

3.1 A conflict of interest may occur if a financial interest or a relationship influences or appears to influence the ability of a Committee Member to exercise objectivity.

3.2 The Committee places great importance on making clear any existing or potential conflicts of interest. All such conflicts of interest shall be declared by the member concerned. All financial conflicts of interest, as defined by statute, shall be documented in the Committee's Conflicts of Interest Register.

3.3 Where a Committee member has an actual or perceived financial conflict of interest, as defined by statute, that Committee member shall not initiate or take part in any Committee discussion on that topic (either in the meeting or with other Committee members before or after the Committee meetings), unless expressly invited to do so by unanimous agreement by all other members present.

3.4 Where a Committee member has an actual or perceived financial conflict of interest, as defined by statute, that Committee member shall not vote on that matter.

3.5 Where a Committee member has an actual or perceived conflict of interest related to their relationship with an employee or volunteer of the organisation, or any other person having dealings with the organisation, that Committee member shall not initiate or take part in any Committee discussion on that topic (either in the meeting or with other Committee members before or after the Committee meetings), unless expressly authorised to do so by the Committee.

3.6 Where a Committee member has an actual or perceived conflict of interest related to their relationship with an employee or volunteer of the organisation, or any other person having dealings with the organisation, that Committee member shall not vote on that matter, unless expressly authorised to do so by the Committee.

3.7 The Committee may further supplement the definition of conflict of interest from time to time if it so wishes and may specify the procedures to apply in such cases.

3.8 Committee members are not barred from engaging in business dealings with the organisation, provided that these are negotiated at arm's length without the participation of the Committee member concerned.

3.9 A Committee member who believes another Committee member has an undeclared conflict of interest should specify in writing to the Secretary the basis of this potential conflict.

### **Federal Committee Conflict of Interest Procedures**

Version 1.1

Drafted by: Dr Bill Meyers Approved on 06/07/2022]

Authorised AMAC Federal Committee Scheduled review date 01/07/2025

#### 1. Responsibilities

1.1 The Chair is responsible for bringing this policy to the attention of prospective Committee members.

1.2 All Committee members are responsible for respecting this policy.

#### 2. Processes

2.1 Before a Committee Member begins his or her service with the organisation, they shall file with the Secretary a list of their principal business activities, as well as involvement with other charitable and business organisations, vendors or business interests, or with any other associations that might produce a conflict of interest. This information should be documented in the Conflict of Interest Checklist.

2.2 Committee members shall also file with the Secretary notification of any relationships between themselves and any employee or volunteer of the organisation, or any other person having dealings with the organisation that might reasonably give rise to the perception of a conflict of interest.

2.3 Further, Members shall declare any conflicts of interest of which they become aware either at the start of the Committee meeting concerned or when a relevant issue arises. The nature of this conflict of interest should be entered in the meeting minutes. The nature of the conflict of interest should also be documented in the Conflict of Interest Checklist.

2.4 Where a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest, as defined below, is identified and/or registered, the Committee member concerned shall leave the room as soon as that item comes up for discussion. The concerned Committee member shall not vote on that issue, nor initiate or take part in any Committee discussion on that topic (either in the meeting or with other Committee members before or after the Committee meetings), unless expressly invited to do so by unanimous agreement by all other members present. The Committee Member's abstinence should be recorded in the meeting minutes.

2.5 If a person declares themselves to have an existing or potential conflict of interest, confidentiality will be respected. If a person alleges that another person has a conflict of interest, whether existing or potential, and that person does not agree, and if the Committee cannot resolve this allegation to the satisfaction of both parties, the matter shall be referred to the Ethics Sub-Committee. This committee will make a recommendation to the Federal Committee as to what action shall be taken.

2.6 'Conflict of interest' is defined as applying in accordance with the statute, where a Committee member stands to gain financially from any business dealings, programs or services of the organisation, other than where:

- a. the Committee member falls into the class of people benefited by the organisation and the financial gain is of a nature common to other beneficiaries, or
- b. the person is an employee of the organisation, and the financial gain is of a nature common to other employees.

2.7 If the organisation has by-laws, 'conflict of interest' is defined under the by-laws where:

- a. the immediate family or business connections of a committee member, or any person with whom the Committee member is in a close relationship, stands to gain financially from any business dealings, programs or services of the organisation,
- b. the person is an employee of the organisation,
- c. a committee member or the ex-officio member of the Committee has a role on the governing body of another organisation, where the activities of that other body may be in direct conflict or competition with the activities of AMAC.

2.8 'Close relationship' is defined as any relationship that might reasonably give rise to an apprehension that the Committee member might place the interests of the other party above the interests of the organisation.

3. Related Documents

- Code of Ethics