



MCIA

Medicinal Cannabis Industry Australia

Code of Conduct

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MCIA Code of Conduct

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1. Introduction

MCIA is the peak industry organisation for companies in Australia's legal medicinal cannabis industry. This encompasses all activities including research, cultivation, production, manufacture, import and export and interaction with the healthcare sector, medicinal cannabis supply chain and communities.

MCIA is the leading industry association promoting competition, integrity and professionalism in Australia's medicinal cannabis market and provides leadership in advancing the interests and accountability of all participants.

MCIA works to build a strong, ethical and innovative industry that builds fair and healthy competition and upholds all regulatory requirements. MCIA members are building a world class industry that enhances health and wellbeing by facilitating access to quality medicinal cannabis products for Australian and global patients.

MCIA is providing stewardship for an economically sustainable and socially responsible industry that is trusted and valued by patients, the medical community and governments. The Australian industry and its products are built on sound science and underpinned by industry processes and standards that ensure patients, the medical community and governments have confidence in the sector and its products ongoing.

This Code of Conduct provides a principles-based framework for appropriate and ethical decision making by MCIA members when supplying and promoting medicinal cannabis products and interacting with healthcare professionals, health consumer organisations and the public. It includes overarching principles that govern all activities covered by this Code.

2. Objectives and Scope of the Code

The Code contributes to a well-functioning medicinal cannabis industry and supports a commitment to increased transparency and accountability, improved quality and integrity of products, and enhanced regulatory and legislative compliance.

MCIA members are recognised as complying with the Code and committed to developing and operating in an industry that is built on ethics, trust, accountability, and assurance that practices are in compliance with the law.

The Code aims to promote high standards of integrity across the medicinal cannabis industry so that patients and healthcare professionals can have confidence in their dealings with the industry, its members and their products. The Code provides a set of minimum expectations. Individual companies may have a higher expectation and subscribe to a higher set of standards.

The Code is a voluntary, self-regulatory code applying to all MCIA members. Members are required, as a condition of membership in MCIA, to observe all provisions of the Code. If a member is found to not comply with the Code, the MCIA will follow the process outlined at Clause 6 – Sanctions below.

As part of the membership fee, MCIA members may use the “MCIA Approved” logo on their company collateral as per the logo guidelines.

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The Code describes the practices and standards that underpin the delivery of quality, plant derived medicinal cannabis products to patients.

The Code is aimed at delivering confidence, increased transparency and accountability i.e. stakeholders engaging with an MCIA member know that the member:

- operates in compliance with the law;
- are committed to best business practices;
- are committed to the integrity, reputation and growth of the medicinal cannabis industry in Australia; and
- promotes a high standard of integrity so that patients and healthcare professionals can have confidence in the industry and its products.

The Code provides guidance for the medicinal cannabis supply chain and MCIA members to deliver on its value proposition for patients including in relation to products which are:

- plant derived;
- of known quality; and
- true to label.

The Code is not intended to provide, nor shall it be construed as, legal advice; or to take precedence over any relevant law or regulation. To the extent that any provision of the Code conflicts with a law or regulation, that law or regulation will prevail.

3. Overarching principles

In keeping with our commitment to ethical behaviour in the Medicinal Cannabis industry, MCIA members must ensure that these overarching principles are adequately reflected in all their activities.

- All activities undertaken by members have the purpose of supporting the quality use of medicinal cannabis medicines for the benefit of patients.
- Members will always operate in a way that is consistent compliance with the law, in particular ensuring strict adherence to requirements under:
 - the Office of Drug Control (ODC), which administers the Narcotic Drugs Act 1967 Cth (ND Act),
 - the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), which administers the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 Cth, as well as
 - any relevant State and Territory legislation that applies to the medicinal cannabis industry.
- Any cannabis derived medicine, or input to a medicine, cultivated, manufactured or imported by an MCIA member has been derived from the cannabis plant and has been subject to stringent and legal quality and safety testing.
- Products made available for patients comply with TGO 93 and reflect best management practices in relation to hygiene/cleanliness, prevention of contamination, identification, cultivation, documentation, quality and legal obligations e.g. good agricultural practice (GAP) or good agriculture and collection practices (GACP) or implement their own processes that are equivalent.

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- Interactions between MCIA members and any relevant stakeholders must be ethical and consistent with the spirit of the Quality Use of Medicines and consider the well-being of patients as the first priority. Interactions must at all times be ethical, appropriate and professional.
- MCIA members are responsible for providing accurate, balanced, and scientifically valid data on products and any information or education must be ethical, accurate, balanced and not be misleading and correctly reflect the accurate risks and benefits of the product.
- Members will respect the privacy and personal information of patients and healthcare professionals.
- Members support and promote fair competition and fair trading.

4. Administration of the Code

The Code will be administered by the MCIA Board.

The MCIA will provide guidance to all members about the operation and requirements of the Code.

The Code will be regularly reviewed and updated to keep pace with changes in technology, business practice and community expectations.

5. Complaint Procedure

Upon receipt of a complaint by a member, the Chair must:

- Notify the Board;
- Ensure all complaints are acknowledged in writing with seven working days of receipt and are handled as expeditiously as possible; and
- Ensure the details of the complaint are notified to the Chief Executive of the member whose conduct is the subject of complaint.

The member whose conduct is the subject of the complaint must:

- Provide such references and information as the MCIA Chair may require; and
- Must reply to the complaint within ten working days.

6. Sanctions

In accordance with clause 7.3.1 of the MCIA Constitution, the MCIA Board may resolve to censure, report to regulatory authorities, suspend or expel the member from the MCIA if the Board consider that the member's behaviour:

- is causing, has caused or is likely to cause harm to the MCIA; or
- is not in compliance with the Code.

7. Code enquiries and enforcement

Reports of potential breaches, complaints, feedback and requests for further information about the MCIA Code of Conduct should be made in writing to: secretariat@mcia.org.au