

Proposed Code of Ethics for the AAWP

We must remember that good laws, if they are not obeyed, do not constitute good government. Hence there are two parts of good government; one is the actual obedience of citizens to the laws, the other part is the goodness of the laws which they obey. (Aristotle, Politics 1294a3-6)

If it is the function of art, sometimes, to unsettle, disturb, shock, or even to scandalise, then ... is artistic practice compatible with the ethics of research? (Paul Makeham 2010, *Research Ethics and Creative Arts Hypothetical*)

1. Why establish a code of ethics?

- It defines the expected behaviour of members of a profession
- It reflects the values of the profession
- It provides a benchmark for members to use for self-evaluation
- It sets the standard for the profession
- It is established by the profession, not imposed upon it

A code of ethics does not replace the National Ethics Application process, or local university requirements. It is a set of guiding principles to assist members who confront difficult ethical issues. It is not the same as a moral code, or a legal code, but is an articulation of standards, values, principles and expectations of practice.

2. Mission Statement

The Australasian Association of Writing Programs is the peak discipline body for tertiary writing in Australasia. Its aims are to:

- Foster research into creative and professional writing, the teaching and pedagogy of writing, and research methods in this discipline;
- Provide sector leadership in writing education, research and practice;
- Provide advocacy on behalf of writing and writing education in Australasia;
- Raise the Association's profile, initiate relevant policies, encourage mentorship, engage with the community, and foster linkages with other key bodies in the creative arts;
- Provide a point of connection between the academy, writers and readers, including through selected publishing and professional/community engagement activities; and
- Promote high quality writing practice.

3. The Code

Members of the AAWP commit themselves to:

1. The aims of the AAWP as expressed in the Mission Statement
2. Creative writing that involves the full gamut of human endeavor
3. Creative research that achieves the standards of rigour, validity and experimentation that are the foundation of research in any mode
4. Respect for the rights of others
5. Respect for the cultural protocols of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Indigenous peoples
6. Sensitive treatment of materials, communication or modes of representation that have the potential to cause distress
7. Sensitive treatment of previously unpublished personal documents
8. Sensitive treatment of any material that might be identified as pertaining to a living person
9. Respect for the integrity of any person, living or dead, who is identifiable in or the subject of a work
10. Honest handling of any materials used in the making of a work
11. Honest attribution of information and sources
12. Privacy and confidential, except where subjects, sources and respondents agree in writing that their identity or their comments may be made public