

## Registered Member Code of Ethics

Arboriculture Australia is a voluntary, professional association and is the leading professional association in arboriculture in Australia. Our Registered members are practitioners in the field of arboriculture that have successfully qualified under the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) at the appropriate level for their category of registration.

This Code of Ethics applies to current Arboriculture Australia Registered Members. The Arborist's Code of Ethics establishes appropriate professional standards and ethical behavior required to be a Registered Member. The Arborist's Code of Ethics also serves as a professional standard for all arborists with respect to such standards and ethics.

### 1. Obligations

1.1. As a Registered Member, I agree that I will:

- 1.1.1. Comply with all rules, policies and insurance requirements set by Arboriculture Australia for Registered Arborist members
- 1.1.2. Comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policies and ethical standards governing the professional practice of arboriculture
- 1.1.3. Comply with all accepted professional arboricultural practices, including Codes of Practice, Australian Standards and Minimum Industry Standards (MIS)
- 1.1.4. Cooperate with Arboriculture Australia concerning the investigation of professional ethical matters and the collection of information about any matter of ethics that may be raised
- 1.1.5. Report to the Arboriculture Australia Board, in a timely manner, any of their own conduct that may violate any provision of the Arborist's Code of Ethics.

### 2. Responsibilities

2.1. In the delivery of their professional services registered members must:

- 2.1.1. Strive to deliver safe and competent services
- 2.1.2. Recognise their ability and limitations and to only provide services that are within their professional capability. Each member should rely on their qualifications, education, knowledge, skills, and experience in determining their limits
- 2.1.3. Make appropriate effort to provide professional referrals where they are unable to provide assistance
- 2.1.4. Maintain the confidentiality of personal and sensitive information obtained in the course of professional activities unless:
  - 2.1.4.1. The client or the employer expressly authorises the release of information and there is a relevant need to release the information, or
  - 2.1.4.2. If required to disclose by law

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- 2.1.5. Ensure that the qualifications and credentials they use and provide are truthful and accurate representations of their education, experience and competence
- 2.1.6. Ensure that all advertising, public statements and other written and verbal representations (including quotes, estimates, treatment plans and reports) represent the truth, and do not claim outcomes that cannot be substantiated
- 2.1.7. Recognise and respect the intellectual property rights of others and not pass off the professional work and research of others as their own
- 2.1.8. Agree to abide by the Arboriculture Australia Statement of Professionalism

### 3. Statement of Professionalism

3.1. As a Registered Member, I agree that I will:

- 3.1.1. Abide by the Arboriculture Australia Arborist's Code of Ethics.
- 3.1.2. Utilize my knowledge and skills as an arborist for the benefit of trees.
- 3.1.3. Actively seek to support and encourage the exchange of information and experience with other arborists and will contribute to the development of arboriculture when opportunities present themselves.
- 3.1.4. Advertise in a truthful manner and will not misrepresent my abilities or the abilities or others or the effectiveness of any services offered.
- 3.1.5. Continually strive to improve my knowledge of arboriculture and will share this knowledge with others.
- 3.1.6. Challenge, where appropriate, the use of incorrect, false, or exaggerated statements about arboriculture.
- 3.1.7. Always make clear on whose behalf I am acting, whenever I issue any opinion publicly (positive or negative) on public policies relating to arboriculture.
- 3.1.8. Base my evidence on known facts, and without personal bias, when serving as an expert witness, on matters concerning arboriculture.
- 3.1.9. Express an opinion publicly on an arboriculture issue, only when I have appropriately researched or studied the matter. I will not knowingly distort, or withhold information, to support a point of view.
- 3.1.10. Give clients an accurate outline of the proposed works and where relevant, the costs and or fees associated with that work. Upon completion of the work, and where required, I will provide the client with an accurate account.
- 3.1.11. Disclose to my client or employer any commercial interests which may influence my judgement in the performance of my duties.

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- 3.1.12. Engage, or advise my employer or client to engage, appropriate experts whenever the employer's or client's interest would be thus best served by so doing. I will cooperate and assist such experts as required by my conditions of engagement.
- 3.1.13. Disclose to clients or employers, as soon as practicable, any matter that could be construed as a potential or real conflict of interest.
- 3.1.14. Refrain from offering or accepting payments, gifts, benefits, or other rewards, for the purpose of gaining work.
- 3.1.15. Follow appropriate Work Health and Safety procedures, in the course of performing my professional duties.
- 3.1.16. Strive for excellence in arboriculture and will encourage and assist others to do likewise.
- 3.1.17. Not make disparaging statements about any fellow registered member, even when there is a difference of professional opinion about an arboricultural matter.
- 3.1.18. Inform Arboriculture Australia, as soon as reasonably practicable, if I have evidence of unethical or inappropriate conduct by a fellow registered arborist.
- 3.1.19. When acting in a professional capacity, treat all those I deal with, with respect and courtesy.