

CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct is designed to assist carers to understand their obligations in undertaking the role of a carer representative in the Mental Health Carers Voice program. The Code of Conduct has been developed by Carers ACT, which is the peak body for mental health carers in the ACT and is funded to manage Mental Health Carers Voice. As part of this responsibility, Carers ACT undertakes to support all mental health carer representatives in their role through the provision of training and opportunities for discussions with other carer representatives.

Mental health carer representatives agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct to support productive participation in meetings and other gatherings.

Mental health carer representatives will, in the course of meetings and discussions:

- Be committed to team building principles of respect, encouragement and support of people, their points of view, and the way they do the tasks they have taken on
- Strive to faithfully represent the interests of the mental health carer community and present those views and issues in a positive way
- Respect the confidentiality of discussions which occur in the course of discharging their roles and representation
- Strive to keep Mental Health Carers Voice members informed about the issues for which they are responsible through regular, appropriate and timely feedback
- Accept group decisions and not return to 'closed agenda items' unless new, relevant material emerges
- Not act illegally, unreasonably, unjustly, oppressively or in a discriminatory way
- Not take illegal drugs or consume alcohol when on duty.

In relation to Carers ACT, mental health carer representatives will:

- Be aware of Carers ACT standards, policies and procedures pertaining to the Mental Health Carers Voice program
- Avoid or appropriately resolve any conflict of interest between private interests and Carers ACT responsibilities
- Use the grievance procedures set down by the Board to resolve any conflicts that may occur with Carers ACT
- Adhere to all the accounting and other procedures of Carers ACT.

Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct as assessed by Carers ACT, and, for carer representatives, in consultation with the secretariat of the committee, advisory or working group the Carer has been appointed to may result in a mental health carer representative having to stand down from their position.