



AUSTRALIAN HEALTH LEADERS LAUNCH HEALTH CARE ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

A consensus framework for ethical practices in health care, developed in collaboration by a large group of Australian health leaders, and endorsed by Australian federal, state and territory health ministers, was launched in Tokyo today.

The Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians (ACSEP) is proud to be one of 50 signatory bodies to sign the framework, which was developed in collaboration with a host of Australian professional health bodies, industry organisations, hospital and health services associations, regulators, patient and advocacy groups and other related organisations.

ACSEP Fellow Dr Jane Fitzpatrick was part of the team to present the first concluded version of this agreement during the Plenary Session of the 2018 APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum.

"The ACSEP is a small but rapidly growing college of specialist Physicians who manage the spectrum of exercise related injury and illness in active people - from those who have chronic diseases to the elite Olympic athlete."

"Our members face the daily challenge in elite sport of maintaining ethical standards that lead to fair play in sport. This positions us well to recognise the extraordinary and positive contribution the Australian Consensus Framework will make in ensuring all those involved in the health care sector - from clinicians and hospitals through to medical device and pharmaceutical companies - to work together to ensure the best standard of care for our patients across Australia."

"We will strive to achieve fair play in patient care as we do for fair play in Sport" concluded Dr Fitzpatrick.

Signatories to the Australian Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration are committed to delivering the best outcomes for patients. Collectively they share similar challenges and hopes – including the desire to maintain and improve ethical behaviour.

Australian Federal Minister for Health, The Hon. Greg Hunt MP, praised the Australian health sector for developing the voluntary initiative.

"The new Australian Consensus Framework has come about from the hard work of a dedicated group of people in the health care industry who want to do things better."

"The Consensus Statement, and the number of signatories to it, is a clear commitment from the Australian healthcare sector to ethical behaviour, collaboration and interaction. It demonstrates how Australian healthcare is driven by the values and principles of honesty, integrity, transparency, accountability and oversight. Most importantly, the statement also gives further certainty to patients about the behaviour they should expect from providers, facilities and companies.

Chair of the Australian Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration and CEO of the Australian Orthopaedic Association, Adrian Cosenza, said that the framework “has been designed in an environment where society’s trust in government, business and not-for-profit bodies globally, including in Australia, as measured by the respected Edelman Trust Barometer, has been in steady decline in recent years. Unethical behaviour is one of the causes of this trust deficit.”

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The ACSEP is the pre-eminent body for Sport and Exercise Physicians and Sport and Exercise Medicine in Australia and New Zealand. Sport and Exercise Physicians are committed to excellence in the practice of medicine as it applies to all aspects of physical activity.