

CODE OF CONDUCT

Australian Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Practitioners

Glossary of Terms

AMAPP: Australian Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Practitioners (**Members**)

Confidentiality: The protection of sensitive information and medical records of patients.

Cultural Capability: The skills, knowledge, behaviours and systems that are required to plan, support, improve and deliver services in a culturally respectful and appropriate manner

Integrity: The adherence to ethical principles, honesty, and a commitment to the highest standards of professionalism in healthcare.

Multidisciplinary: Refers to the variety of background qualifications of PAT practitioners.

Safety protocols: Systems to help prevent adverse outcomes.

Professional communication: The timely exchange of information between healthcare professionals in a respectful, effective, and appropriate manner.

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Preamble

The Australian Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Practitioners (AMAPP) recognises the importance of establishing a code of conduct for its members. This code of conduct is designed to provide guidance to our members and promote ethical and responsible practices in all areas of their work. It is also a guide to potential clients to help empower them.

AMAPP welcomes a diverse membership from many healthcare fields, including but not limited to psychologists, psychiatrists, doctors, social workers, nurses, paramedics, researchers, harm reduction specialists, pharmaceutical scientists and other professionals interested in psychedelic-assisted therapies.

As a member of AMAPP, it is your responsibility to uphold the highest standards of ethical and responsible practice in your work. By agreeing to abide by this code of conduct, you are making a commitment to the organisation and to the patients and communities you serve.

The following code of conduct outlines the values and principles that are essential to the work we do. All members of AMAPP are expected to adhere to this code of conduct in their professional conduct and interactions with others.

Agreement

I, [insert full name], agree to abide by the Code of Conduct established by the Australian Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Practitioners (AMAPP). I understand that this Code of Conduct applies to all AMAPP members, including myself, and that it outlines the values and principles essential to the work we do.

I agree to uphold the highest standards of ethical and responsible practice in my work and interactions with others as a member of AMAPP. I understand that any breach of this code of conduct may result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

I sign this agreement on [insert date] and acknowledge that my commitment to the principles of the Code of Conduct is an ongoing responsibility as long as I remain a member of AMAPP.

Signed:

Name: [insert full name]

Date: [insert date]

Organisation: Australian Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Practitioners (AMAPP)

By joining AMAPP, members agree to abide by the following code of conduct:

1. Professionalism

AMAPP Members agree that they will always conduct themselves with the highest level of professionalism. They will maintain ethical, respectful, and transparent relationships with their AMAPP colleagues, peers, clients, and the wider community and:

- a) AMAPP members must practice in accordance with the ethical and professional standards of their respective disciplines. This includes adhering to the codes of conduct and ethics established by professional associations and regulatory bodies, such as the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Psychological Society, and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency;
- b) AMAPP members must maintain appropriate boundaries with their clients. This includes avoiding conflicts of interest, maintaining confidentiality, and ensuring that the therapeutic relationship always remains professional. It is never acceptable to enter into a personally intimate relationship with a client.
- c) AMAPP members must maintain their own physical and mental health in order to provide safe and effective care to their clients. This includes seeking appropriate medical and psychological treatment as necessary, and avoiding practices that may impair their ability to provide safe and effective care. AMAPP members involved in direct clinical care must cease their clinical practice if they are impaired;
- d) AMAPP members must engage in ongoing professional development and education in order to maintain their knowledge and skills in the field of psychedelic-assisted therapies. This may include attending conferences and workshops, reading relevant literature, and seeking out suitably qualified consultation and supervision from experienced practitioners; and
- e) AMAPP members must maintain accurate and complete records of their interactions with clients, including assessments, treatment plans, progress notes, and other relevant documentation. This documentation should be kept in a secure and confidential manner in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements.

2. Informed Consent

Informed consent is the process by which a person is given the relevant information needed to make a decision.

- a) AMAPP members must obtain informed consent from clients prior to providing each psychedelic dosing session. Informed consent means that clients have been provided with all relevant information necessary to make an informed decision about participating in the treatment, including risks, benefits, and alternatives;
- b) AMAPP members must ensure that clients have the capacity to provide informed consent. This means that clients must be capable of understanding the information being provided and making a voluntary decision to participate in the treatment;
- c) AMAPP members must ensure that the informed consent process is ongoing throughout the course of treatment. Clients should be provided with updated information as necessary and be given the opportunity to alter consent at any time;

- d) AMAPP members, where possible, must document the informed consent process in the client's medical record. This documentation should include a description of the information provided to the client, witnesses to the consent process, the client's decision to participate in the treatment, and any questions or concerns raised by the client.

3. Client Safety

Members of AMAPP prioritise the best client outcomes in all their decisions.

- a) AMAPP members must have appropriate training, education, and experience in the use of psychedelic-assisted therapies.
- b) AMAPP members must conduct a comprehensive assessment of the client's medical, psychiatric and developmental history prior to administering psychedelic-assisted therapies.
- c) AMAPP members must ensure that clients are comprehensively prepared for the psychedelic experience.
- d) AMAPP members must ensure that clients are physically and emotionally safe during the psychedelic experience. This may involve intervening as necessary to ensure the client's safety;
- e) AMAPP members must have appropriate emergency procedures in place in case of adverse events or medical emergencies during psychedelic-assisted therapies. This may involve having access to appropriate medications, on call medical doctor, equipment and having a plan for transport to a medical facility if necessary; and
- f) AMAPP members must not engage in inappropriate conduct with clients, including but not limited to sexual or physical intimacy. This is a critical component of ethical practice in any healthcare or therapeutic setting and is essential to maintain the safety and well-being of clients.

4. Confidentiality

- a) AMAPP members must maintain the confidentiality of their clients' personal and medical information, in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements. This includes not disclosing client information to third parties without the client's consent, unless required by law or in the event of a medical emergency;
- b) AMAPP members must inform clients about the limits of confidentiality at the beginning of the therapeutic relationship, including any circumstances under which confidentiality may need to be breached. This may include situations in which the client poses a risk to themselves or others, or situations in which there is a legal obligation to disclose information;
- c) AMAPP members must obtain informed consent from clients prior to disclosing any client information to third parties. This may involve obtaining written consent, or verbal consent in situations where written consent is not possible; and
- d) AMAPP members must ensure that any third parties who are involved in the client's care, such as other healthcare professionals or support workers, are aware of the confidentiality requirements and are bound by the same obligations of confidentiality.

5. Professional Development

- a) AMAPP members must engage in ongoing professional development in order to maintain and enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of psychedelic-assisted therapies. This may include attending workshops, seminars, and conferences, reading relevant literature, and participating in online learning programs both to maintain skills and to enhance knowledge in areas they deem deficient;
- b) AMAPP members must maintain accurate records of their professional development activities, including the date, topic, and duration of each activity.
- c) AMAPP members must comply with any regulatory or accreditation requirements related to professional development, such as the continuing professional development (CPD) requirements set forth by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) or their governing bodies.

6. Integrity

- a) AMAPP members must maintain high standards of professional integrity at all times. This includes behaving in a professional and ethical manner, treating clients with respect and dignity, and ensuring that their actions are consistent with their professional responsibilities;
- b) AMAPP members must be transparent and honest in their communications with clients, colleagues, and other stakeholders. This includes disclosing any conflicts of interest or other relevant information that may impact the provision of care;
- c) AMAPP members must comply with all applicable laws and regulations related to their practice, including those related to professional conduct and ethics.

7. Cultural Capability

- a) AMAPP members must demonstrate cultural sensitivity and respect including but not limited to gender diverse and neurodiverse clients, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members in their practice. This includes being aware of and respecting the cultural practices, beliefs, and values of these communities;
- b) AMAPP members must be aware of the impacts of historical trauma and colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other communities, and work to address the ongoing health inequalities and disparities that might exist in these communities;
- c) AMAPP members should seek out cultural and diversity awareness training and professional development opportunities to enhance their understanding if required.

8. Respectful Communication

- a) AMAPP members must communicate with clients, colleagues, and other stakeholders in a respectful, professional, and appropriate manner. This includes using appropriate language and tone of voice, avoiding derogatory or discriminatory language, and demonstrating empathy and understanding towards clients and colleagues;
- b) AMAPP members must use clear and concise language when communicating with clients, colleagues, and other stakeholders. This includes providing information in a way that is easily

understood by the recipient, using plain language where possible, and avoiding the use of jargon or technical terms that may not be understood;

- c) AMAPP members must communicate in a timely manner, responding promptly to clients, colleagues, and other stakeholders. This includes keeping clients informed of any changes or updates related to their care, and respecting clients' preferences for communication methods;

9. Compliance with Professional standards, Laws and Regulations

- a) Members of AMAPP will comply with all applicable laws and regulations governing their practice, including but not limited to those related to licensing, registration, and the use of controlled substances. AMAPP members must be aware of their legal obligations to ensure that they provide safe and appropriate care to their patients and:
- b) If members are found to have breached their local laws, practice guidelines, they will face immediate termination of AMAPP membership and will have no avenue of review.
- c) Members of AMAPP regardless of their profession or accreditation must follow the ethical and professional standards established by their professional bodies, as well as any applicable laws and regulations and:
- d) AMAPP members shall practice within the limits of their professional competence and scope of practice;
- e) AMAPP members who are not registered with a professional board or regulatory body shall be held to the same standards and ethical principles as those who are registered with a professional board or regulatory body;
- f) AMAPP members shall be responsible for ensuring that they are meeting the code of conduct for their profession or jurisdiction, even if they are unregistered;
- g) AMAPP members who do not comply with the requirements of their respective registered body (AHPRA, AMA etc.) for mandatory reporting of misconduct, or where there is no registered body governing that member, may be subject to misconduct review by AMAPP and may have their AMAPP membership revoked upon review; and
- h) AMAPP members shall not engage in any activity or behaviour that would discredit their profession or bring the AMAPP into disrepute.

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Misconduct Processes

Any conduct that seems to breach regulatory, legal or professional governance and is reported to AMAPP will be forwarded to the relevant professional or statutory body.

Assessment of misconduct that falls outside of the above conduct will be conducted by the AMAPP Compliance Officer(s) and if warranted, advance the misconduct to review by the Misconduct Review Panel (MRP). The MRP will review the misconduct allegation and make the recommendation of either a Stage 1, 2, 3 or 4 determinations.

Stage 1: Verbal Warning - A verbal warning will be issued to the AMAPP member outlining the breach and expectations moving forward.

Stage 2: Written Warning - If the behaviour continues, a written warning will be issued to the AMAPP member outlining the breach and expectations moving forward.

Stage 3: Suspension - If the AMAPP member continues to breach the code of conduct, a suspension from the organisation will be issued for a specific period of time. During this time, the AMAPP member will not be able to participate in any activities or events organised by the organisation. AMAPP credentialed members will have their removed from the database of credentialed members for the duration of suspension.

Stage 4: Termination - If the AMAPP member continues to breach the code of conduct, the member's membership with the organisation will be terminated without review.

It is important for AMAPP members to adhere to this warning system and the guidelines outlined in this code of conduct to ensure a high standard of care for patients and to promote a positive and respectful working environment. In following these guidelines, AMAPP members can ensure they are providing the best possible care to their patients and working effectively with other healthcare professionals.

