
**GUIDANCE ON THE EXPECTED PRACTICES REQUIRED
OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES ENGAGED IN
CRYPTO ASSET AND BLOCKCHAIN ACTIVITIES**

CODE OF CONDUCT



**Australian
Blockchain
Association**

TABLE OF CONTENT

03	Purpose
04	Regulatory Requirements
05	Transparency
05	Fairness and Conflicts
06	Responsibility for Actions
06	Diversity
07	Consumer Protection
08	Privacy and Confidentiality
08	Liability

AUSTRALIAN BLOCKCHAIN ASSOCIATION

Australian Blockchain Association (ABA) aims to outline, promote and guide the implementation of standards of ethical practice for compliant members in the blockchain, cryptocurrency and digital asset industries.

PURPOSE

Australian Blockchain Association (ABA) aims to outline, promote and guide the implementation of standards of ethical practice for compliant members in the blockchain, cryptocurrency and digital asset industries.

ABA's Code of Conduct provides a description and guidance on the expected practices required of individuals and companies engaged in crypto asset and blockchain activities. It outlines the values and principles which underpin ethical practice in these industries and that compliant members and companies are expected to follow.



REGULATORY AND INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

ABA members must always act in compliance with all applicable industry standards, laws, and regulations within Australia or the jurisdiction of their business.



No member shall intentionally violate any such applicable laws, rules, or industry standards, nor shall any member encourage or enable another to do so.



Transparency

Trust from consumers, as well as within the blockchain industry is fundamental to the integrity and growth of the sector. ABA members must always be open and truthful, whether within an organisation, to consumers, stakeholders, or others—even when sharing information may result in a negative impact on business or reputation.

Fairness and Conflicts of Interest

ABA members must always conduct business in an objective and impartial manner. Any potential conflict of interest an ABA member has must be appropriately disclosed or managed by themselves, even if this requires removing themselves from a transaction. Biases or other conflicts must not compromise professional conduct, and each member is responsible for managing their own biases and prejudices.

Responsibility for Actions and Decisions of Interest

ABA Members should exemplify and promote ethical and professional behaviour within the industry and public communities. This includes to always be respectful of others in speech and actions, attempt collaboration over conflict, and ensure appropriate consumer protections are in place.

Members must not conduct or advocate for by any behaviour that may be considered harassment, threatening, unprofessional, or otherwise socially or ethically unacceptable within the ABA community. This includes (but is not limited to) violence, threats, predatory behaviour, personal insults, discriminatory practices, and inappropriate contact.

ABA members must always accept responsibility for the actions (or inactions) they have chosen to take, and any foreseeable consequences caused by these decisions.

Diversity and Equal Opportunity of Interest



Diversity, equality and fairness are principles that are expected to be maintained by ABA members and compliant companies providing equal opportunities to diverse people in Australia.

ABA has zero tolerance for discrimination and individuals, or companies found to be acting in a discriminatory manner will be removed from ABA's membership list. Depending on the specific circumstances, these companies may face legal penalties or ramifications as well.

Member organisations are expected to have specific policies in place to ensure equal opportunities for current and prospective employees and for clients accessing their products and services. This could include policies or procedures relating to cross-cultural communication, diversity or inclusivity policies.



Consumer Protection and Access



The ABA is committed to ensuring the public is provided with quality crypto asset and blockchain products. Companies and individuals compliant with ABA's Code of Conduct must ensure that they are appropriately protected against cybercrime including hacks and scams and must ensure that there are appropriate measures in place to protect themselves and those who use their products and/or services.

Companies that offer crypto assets and are compliant with ABA's Code of Conduct must also ensure that there are appropriate measures in place for clients to access or recover their crypto assets if, for example, their password is lost. This can be in the form of a seed phrase or account recovery options.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The collection of private information should only be performed when it is reasonably required. Private information must only be used for authorised purposes.

Members must always use their best efforts to prevent the unauthorised disclosure or misappropriation of any confidential, sensitive, or private information. Unless private information is required to be disclosed by law, members should only use or disclose such information for the purposes for which it was obtained or a permitted related use.

The responsibility to prevent the misuse of private information falls on members and their staff who have access to this information.

Liability and Consequences

Any ABA members found to be non-compliant with ABA's Code of Conduct will have their membership immediately revoked, as well as any subsidiary benefits such as ABA certification. Members are responsible for raising issues of non-compliance or discrimination and are encouraged to report these to ABA through the contact page.

In addition, if the ABA is made aware of any illegal or suspicious activity, this will be passed on to the relevant government bodies. Depending on the investigation and the activity, this may result in legal ramifications or other consequences including loss of business/income, fines or imprisonment.





**AUSTRALIAN
BLOCKCHAIN
ASSOCIATION**

enquiries@australianblockchainassociation.com.au
www.australianblockchainassociation.com.au