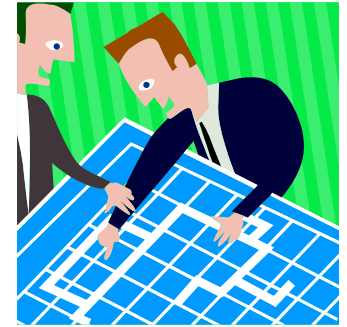




# INFO5990 Professional Practice in IT

## Lecture 10B



The Role of professional bodies  
Codes of practice in the professions  
The Australian Computer Society



# Skipping slides today



Does not mean you don't need to review them !

# By the end of this lecture you will be able to:

- Understand the role of professional bodies
- Compare the code of ethics of two professional bodies
- Appreciate the benefits of membership
- Consider joining the Australian Computer Society (ACS)
- Thought about professional responsibilities
- Make decisions about whistleblowing

# What is a profession?

- An occupation, such as law, medicine, or engineering, that requires considerable training and specialized study.
- Classically, there were only three so-called “learned professions”: divinity, medicine, and law
- By 1900 pharmacy, veterinary medicine, nursing, teaching, librarianship, optometry and social work, all claimed to be professions

# Milestones for emerging professions

What marks an occupation as a “profession”?

1. a full-time occupation;
2. training school established;
3. university school established;
4. local and national associations established;
5. code of professional ethics introduced;
6. state licensing laws established.

# What is a Professional Body?

“a group of people in a learned occupation who are entrusted with maintaining control or oversight of the legitimate practice of the occupation”

([www.qualityresearchinternational.com](http://www.qualityresearchinternational.com))



# The Role of a Professional Body

- 1) To safeguard the public interest
- 2) To represent the interests of professional practitioners
- 3) Provide professional development programmes
- 4) To offer professional 'certification'
- 5) To uphold its status as the relevant professional body in its domain
- 6) Accreditation of university courses

# University Course Accreditation

- Ensures that academic institutions meet national and international benchmarks
- Evaluates degree programs against a designated criteria
- Ensures that graduates meet professional requirements

❖ Your courses have been accredited by the Australian Computer Society






# What accreditation covers

- The Teaching and Learning environment
- Course structure and content
- Quality assurance framework
- Attention to 'Soft Skills'
  - Hence the strong focus in INFO5990 on communication skills and team skills

# Question 1

Which of the following is NOT seen as a role of a professional body

- A. To safeguard the public interest
- B. To represent the interests of professional practitioners
-  C. To protect members from being sued by the public
- D. To provide professional development programmes
- E. To offer professional 'certification'

Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5	Question 6	Score / 6
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	

# Acting ethically!

## Code of ethics

# Behaving Ethically

- Ethical = “you would be happy to see details of your dealings on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald*”
- But remember,  
‘unethical’ does not necessarily mean ‘unlawful’ or ‘illegal’ ...
- ... and conversely, ‘legal’ is not always the same as ‘ethical’.

# Australian Computer Society Code of Ethics



(7 Oct, 2009)

To uphold and advance the honour, dignity and effectiveness of the profession of information technology and in keeping with high standards of competence and ethical conduct, a member must:

- (a) be honest, forthright and impartial
- (b) loyally serve the community, and
- (c) strive to increase the competence and prestige of the profession
- (d) use special knowledge and skill for the advancement of human welfare.

[http://www.acs.org.au/attachments/Code\\_of\\_Ethics.pdf](http://www.acs.org.au/attachments/Code_of_Ethics.pdf)



# Comparison of Codes



## Aust Computer Society

- a) be honest, forthright and impartial
- b) loyally serve the community
- c) strive to increase the competence and prestige of the profession
- d) use special knowledge and skill for the advancement of human welfare.

## Engineers Australia

- 1. Demonstrate personal and professional integrity
- 2. Promote the wellbeing of individuals, communities and the environment
- 3. Practice with professional competence
- 4. Exercise responsible leadership.

# Why have a code of ethics? (1)

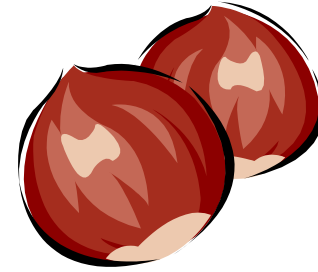
- Furnishes common, agree-upon standards for professional conduct. These are of benefit to both professionals and the public
- Provides a focus for debate on how the code should be applied or perhaps modified

# Why have a code of ethics? (2)

- Provides rationale for a professional to adhere to professional standards even when pressured by others to violate them.
- But, the code of ethics cannot cover every possible ethical situation. The professional may sometimes have to decide for him/her self.



# In a nut shell



1. Members should place the interests of their client/employee and the community above their own personal/private interests
2. Members should act only in areas of their competence and in a careful and diligent manner

(Committee member of Engineering Australia)



# Standard of conduct



A member is expected to act at all times in a manner likely to be judged by informed, respected, and experienced peers in possession of all of the facts as the most ethical way to act in the circumstances.



(Statement of the Australian Computer Society)



# Code of Ethics: positives & negatives

## Positive characteristics

Can help members make ethical choices.

Can alert members to ethical aspects they otherwise might overlook.

Can be used to discipline members when they violate the code.

Can inform the public about the role of the profession.

## Negative characteristics

Are never complete or exhaustive.

May tend to be too general and too vague.


May be inconsistent

May not always be helpful in resolving conflict.

Are ineffective in disciplinary matters.

May be self-serving for the profession.


## Q2 Which of the following statements about a code of ethics is FALSE?

- A. A code of ethics furnishes common, agree-upon standards for professional conduct
- B. A code of ethics provides a focus for debate on how the code should be applied
- C. A code of ethics provides a rationale for a professional to adhere to in difficult situations
-  D. A code of ethics covers every possible ethical situation the professional is likely to meet
- E. NONE of these is FALSE

Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5	Question 6	Score / 6
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	

# Question 3

Which of the following is TRUE

- A. The code of ethics of the ACS is quite different from the codes of all other professional bodies
- B. The code of ethics of ACS is particularly strict
- C. The code of ethics of ACS is rather vague
-  D. All members of ACS are expected to abide by the society's code of ethics
- E. Only certified members of ACS are expected to abide by the society's code of ethics

Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5	Question 6	Score / 6
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	

# Australian Computer Society

Firefox Australian Computer Society - ACS +

www.acs.org.au Web Search

Most Visited Getting Started

**acs** AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY inspiring success

Home My ACS Branches About the ACS Become a Member Contact Us

**INDUSTRY EXPERT DR BHUVAN UNHELKAR EXPLAINS**

Business Analysis - Perth 19 & 20 June  
Darwin 23 & 24 June  
Agile Composite - Darwin 25, 26 & 27 June

**LIVE NEWS & EVENTS**

[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [RSS](#)

[ACS Week in Review](#)

[CeBIT Update for ACS Members](#)

[IAwards 2014 Nominations Open](#)

**ITNEWS GRAD GUIDE 2014/15**

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

**INDUSTRY WHITE PAPERS**

[View Now](#)

Member Login

Search

Accredited Courses & Jobs

Certification & SFIA

Events & Networking

Professional Development

Information Resources

Communities

News & Media

President's Blog

Migration Skills Assessment

Government

Corporate

Education

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [r](#)

SEE HOW WE HELP THEM DELIVER THE FINEST CARE

[Learn more](#)

IT'S HOW WE CONNECT **T**

10:24 AM 10/05/2014

# Australian Computer Society

## Education

Are you ready to accelerate your career? Do you want the freedom to study whenever, wherever you are?

If so, ACSEducation has the training solution for you.

[More Information](#) ➔

**Training**  
Training Courses

+ [Find out more about ACS Education](#)

## Upcoming Events


Thu 19 May (QLD)    Tester Meet Developer - Can We Get Along Better?

Thu 19 May (NT)    The Effects Of Underpaying Staff On The Ict Industry

Thu 19 May    Acs Canberra Toastmasters Meeting "Become A Better Speaker"



[Visit Events Calendar](#)

 Search Upcoming Events

## News

Wed 11 May    ACS Responds to 2011-12 Federal Budget

Tue 10 May    Results of the 2011 Telstra-TJA Christopher Newell Prize for telecommunications and disability

Fri 29 Apr    Warning: Scam Calls about Problems with Your Computer

+ [View all news articles](#)

## Resources

Information Age is the publication for ICT Professionals

IN THIS ISSUE:  
Secrets & Lies



## Services

- Membership
- Course Accreditation
- Skills Assessment
- Diploma
- Careers & Employment
- Information Resources
- Sponsorship & Endorsement

## Related Sites

Select a branch

Select a site

## Latest Poll

# Benefits of membership for you

- Opportunities to “network” with other professionals in the area
- Careers Service
  - job hunting, resumé writing, interviews
- Publications and professional Library
- Continuous professional development
  - seminars and information sessions
- Achieving Certified status



# ACS: Special interest groups (SIG)

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[Print this page](#) [Send to a friend](#) [Make this my homepage](#)

[YOU ARE HERE:](#) [Special Interest Groups](#)

## Special Interest Groups

---

**ACS Women SIG ( VIC )**  
Convenor: Jeanette Wirt  
Email: [jwirt@acsmail.net.au](mailto:jwirt@acsmail.net.au) NO SPAM  
[Website](#) [Send an Email](#)

---

**ACS-W ( QLD )**  
Convenor: Colleen Garard  
Phone: 07 3220 0666  
Email: [colleen.garard@acs.org.au](mailto:colleen.garard@acs.org.au) NO SPAM  
[Send an Email](#)

---

**Business Intelligence ( VIC )**  
Convenor: Pengchea Ngo  
Email: [pengchea@yahoo.com](mailto:pengchea@yahoo.com) NO SPAM  
[Send an Email](#)

---

**Business Requirements Analysis ( NSW )**  
Convenor:  
Didar Zowghi  
Email: [didar@it.uts.edu.au](mailto:didar@it.uts.edu.au) NO SPAM  
[Website](#) [Send an Email](#)

---

**ACS PC Recycling Group ( SA )**  
Convenor: Brenda Aynsley  
Phone: 08 7127 1581  
[Website](#)

# Australian Computer Society Journal

“Information Age” is the official bi-monthly publication of the ACS, supplied free to members.

The Australian Computer Society has won international recognition for, “Information Age” when it was launched



# ACS Membership Fees

Student membership	\$66 per year
Full Member	\$352 per year

# Australian Computer Society Certified Professional (CP) Benefits



- Brings an added competitive edge and professional readiness
- International Recognition Global acknowledgement of CP as the benchmark for professionalism
- Strengthening of employment and marketability
- Greater job mobility

There are currently no fees for members who apply for CP status.

# What happens if an ACS member breaches the code of ethics?

Where a breach is proven, the ACS may choose to apply any of the following sanctions:

- Admonition
- Reprimand
- Fine
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Specified professional development
- Withdrawal of certification

# Question 4

Which of the following is TRUE


- A. Student membership in Australian Computer Society is free
- B. Student membership in Australian Computer Society costs \$60 per year
- C. ACS fees vary with age and experience
- D. Annual fee for membership in the Australian Computer Society is \$430
- E. BOTH (B) and (D)



Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5	Question 6	Score / 6
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	

# Question 5

Which of the following is TRUE

- 
- A. ACS has a program that leads to being “Certified”
  - B. ACS has a program that leads to being “Chartered”
  - C. It is quite expensive to attain “Certified status” with the ACS
  - D. It is very difficult to attain “Certified status” with the ACS
  - E. BOTH (A) and (D)

Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5	Question 6	Score / 6
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	

# Dealing with professional dilemmas

Advice from your professional body



# 1. Acting as expert witness

- Prepare reports in objective and accurate manner
- Reveal any potential conflict of interest
- Ensure that reports and opinions include *all* relevant material
- Listen carefully to each question
- Have regard to normal practice and state of knowledge at the relevant time

## 2. Unauthorised release of information

Referred to as 'Whistle blowing'

- A term used to describe the act of an employee informing authorities of harmful, dangerous, or illegal activities being carried out by the company he/she works for.
- When performing such a public duty, the whistle blower must be prepared to pay the consequences.

# How to be a 'whistle blower'

If you observe a case of criminal or unethical practice, or threats to public safety

1. Ensure that such practices are brought to attention of those with appropriate authority
2. Try normal channels initially, if that fails
  1. Make objections known promptly
  2. Focus on issues in tactful low-key manner
  3. Be accurate, keep formal records
  4. Consult colleagues – avoid isolation
  5. Seek legal advice
  6. Check with your professional body (ACS)



## Whistleblowers Australia

*All it needs for evil to flourish is for people of good will to do nothing.*- Edmund Burke

Whistleblowers Australia Inc. is an association for those who have exposed corruption or any form of malpractice, especially if they were then hindered or abused, and for those who are thinking of exposing it or who wish to support those who are doing so.

# 3. Conflict of Interest

- A conflict of interest exists where a professional is subject to “influences, loyalties, temptations, or other interests” ...
- ... that may tend to make the professional’s judgment less likely to benefit the customer or client than the customer or client is justified in expecting”
- Such as existing business or family relationships, or financial interests
- A conflict of interest can be actual, potential or apparent.

# What to do?

- Declare your interest
- Try to avoid having to give the advice or make the decision

# Question 6

Which of the following BEST sums up the attitude of professional bodies to 'whistleblowing'?

- A. Professionals NEVER snitch on colleagues!
- B. If you 'blow the whistle' you are on your own!
- C. Try normal channels initially
- D. Be accurate, keep formal records
- E. BOTH (C) and (D)



Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5	Question 6	Score / 6
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E	

# Ethical dilemma 1

Your firm is in competition with another firm for a large construction contract for the local council.

Your boss asks you to write a letter to the local paper pointing out that the engineers in the competing firm were responsible for a failed project for another local council only last year and are not as competent as the people in your firm .

You suspect that this claim is false.

What do you do?

What about if you know the claim to be true?



# Ethical dilemma 2

You are an IT professional working for the NSW Government, but you hope to leave soon for a more challenging and better paying job with Optus.

You happen to be also a consultant advising a committee that is considering five bids for constructing a new broadband network.

One bid comes from Optus and you think that the Optus bid is the best. Should you advise the committee to accept the Optus bid?

What would you do?

What about if you think that the Optus is the worst bid?

Should you still declare a conflict of interest bid?

# Ethical dilemma 3

You own a small company that uses electronic valves. In your design you always specify valves made by your cousin's company, even when valves made by other companies might be more appropriate.


Are you legally allowed to make this choice?

Is this ethically acceptable practice?

# Question 7

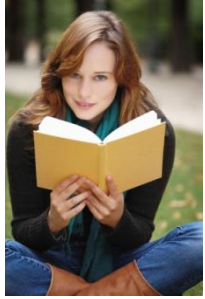
Write down  
your score /7

In relation to a professional acting as a witness, which of the following statements is FALSE?

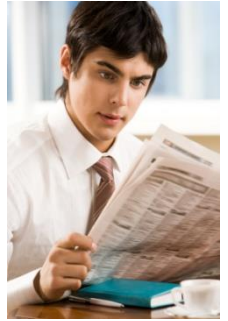
- A. Prepare reports in an objective and accurate manner
- B. Reveal any potential conflict of interest
-  C. Have a clear idea as to who is to blame
- D. Ensure that reports and opinions include all relevant material
- E. Listen carefully to each question

Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Bonus question	Question 5	Question 6	Score
A B C D E	A B C D E	A B C D E		A B C D E	A B C D E	6

# Preparing for your exam



- Start practicing
- Work on questions individually or in teams
- Write your answers out for practice
- Bring your answers together with any queries to lecture session in Week 13



# Front page looks just like the real one!

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Sample Examination Paper

1. The first part of the examination is a multiple choice question. It consists of 10 questions. Each question has four possible answers. Only one of these is the correct answer. You must select the correct answer for each question. The questions are worth a total of 20 marks.

2. The second part of the examination is a short answer question. It consists of 5 questions. Each question has a short answer. The questions are worth a total of 20 marks.

3. The third part of the examination is a long answer question. It consists of 2 questions. Each question has a long answer. The questions are worth a total of 40 marks.

Question	Answer	Mark
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

# Groups

- Make sure you are in the group
- Otherwise you get only 50% when your group may receive HD !



Assignment submissions  
Presentation submissions

Group Presentations in tutorial's

Two group's from tutorial to  
present in lecture

**Volunteers ?**



# Dates for submission



See you next week !