

**Assignment Cover Sheet**

**Subject Name**: **Professional Environments**

**Assignment Name/Number**: Ethics, Professionalism and Governance – Case Study Series

**Date of Submission**:

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**Declaration:**

I declare that the assignment is based on my own work and that all material previously written or published in any source by any other person has been duly acknowledged in the assignment. I have not submitted this work, or a significant part thereof, previously as part of any academic program. In submitting this assignment, I give ACS permission to copy for assessment purposes only.

I select case study 6 in my assignment which is about Christina, a programmer for a small software company need to sign that tests are completed but the true is not. Firstly, I will talk about the framework I will apply in this case, then discuss any detection of ‘conflict of interest’. After that, I will present Code of Ethics and ICT governance. During those discussion, I will recommend which actions should be taken to minimise the unexpected results.

McDonald’s framework that the company can use in this case by following these:

* Collection of information and identification of the issue: there are bugs in three programs and manager wants to sign the document that there are no bugs.
* Finding feasible alternatives: Hiring more people in order to fix the bugs quicker, delay the deadline or ask the staffs work overtime.
* Finding correctness of each alternative by suitable ethical standards: Hiring more staffs or delay the deadline may be a better solution with ethical code.
* Proposing and then testing the possible resolutions: The company has more staffs, so they can breakdown into 3 teams for three programs – test and fix. Move the deadline, it can make the users unhappy about the company.
* Making the final choice: hiring more staffs in some certain cases like this is a better choice.

Whether Christina follows the management or not, she doesn’t gain any benefits from that. Therefore, there is no ‘conflict of interest’ in this case. For Christina, what she can do is explain to the management about this:

* If releases all the programs on time and the bugs are not fixed, the users may experience them, and give a negative feedback.
* For any users, the first time interacting with the programs, will make them trust about company or not. It may leave a good impression or bad impression by the first time.
* Christina can choose to do the correct things only. If there is something wrong in the company, Christina can choose not to do it. It will affect the view of other colleagues to her in a bad way if she does the incorrect things.

These are some of ACS Code of Ethics that Christina should be concerned herself before doing any wrong thing:

1. The Primacy of the Public Interest: Prioritize the interests of the public above personal, business or sectional interests.

In accordance with this value she will:

a) identify those potentially impacted by your work and explicitly consider their interests;

b) raise with stakeholders any potential conflicts between your professional activity and legal or other accepted public requirements;

c) advise your stakeholders as soon as possible of any conflicts of interest or conscientious objections that you have;

d) take into consideration the fact that your profession traverses many other professions, and has implications for other social systems and organisations;

e) endeavour to preserve the integrity, security, continuity and utility of ICT;

1. The Enhancement of Quality of Life: The work should enhance the quality of life of people affected.

In accordance with this value she will:

a) recognise, in your work, the role that ICT can play to enhance the quality of life of people, particularly the disadvantaged or those with disabilities;

b) protect and promote the health and safety of those affected by your work;

c) understand, and give due regard to, the perceptions of those affected by your work; and

d) attempt to increase the feelings of personal satisfaction, competence, and control of those affected by your work.

1. Honestly: Honest in our selves about skills, knowledge, services and products.

In accordance with this value she will:

a) reject, and will not make, any offer of bribery or inducement;

b) not knowingly mislead a client or potential client as to the suitability of a product or service;

c) distinguish between your professional and personal opinions and advice;

d) give realistic estimates for projects under your control;

e) qualify professional opinions which you know are based on limited knowledge or experience;

1. Competence: Working competently and diligently for all stakeholders.

In accordance with this value she will:

a) endeavour to provide products and services which match the operational and financial needs of your stakeholders;

b) not misrepresent your skills or knowledge;

c) make yourself aware of relevant standards and legislation, and act accordingly;

d) respect and protect your stakeholders' proprietary interests;

e) advise your stakeholders when you believe a proposed project, product or service is not in their best interest;

There are some of Australian Legislation that will protect Christina in workplace but the most conspicuous one is that even if Christina is honest and don’t want to sign, the management couldn’t do anything to her such as dismissal or giving more tasks than normal. Because under Fair Work, it is an unfair dismissal if the dismissal is unreasonable.

References:

Australian computer society, ‘ACS CODE OF ETHICS’, accessed on 25/10/2019, <https://www.acs.org.au/content/dam/acs/acs-documents/Code-of-Ethics.pdf>

Australian Computer Society, 2014, ‘Code of Professional Conduct Professional Standards Board Australian Computer Society’, accessed on 25/10/2019, <https://www.acs.org.au/content/dam/acs/rules-and-regulations/Code-of-Professional-Conduct_v2.1.pdf>

Fairwork, ‘Ending Employment’, accessed on 26/10/2019, <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/how-we-will-help/templates-and-guides/fact-sheets/minimum-workplace-entitlements/ending-employment>