

**Australian Computer Society**  
**Online Forum – Code of Conduct**  
Revision of 10 October 2021

**Preamble**

This document further articulates the ACS Code of Ethics in the context of electronic discussions, and affirms expectations for participants' behaviour in the ACS Constitutional Reform Online Forum. Participation in the Forum represents agreement to comply with the terms of this Code.

The Forum will be monitored. Minor breaches of this Code will result in off-list, and where appropriate on-list, reminders of the terms of this Code. Serious breaches will result in offenders being subjected to moderation of messages or suspension of the right to post, and represent a cause of action in relation to the exercise of the member disciplinary procedures in ACS Rule 7.

**Purposes**

The purposes of this Code are:

- To ensure that the Forum is effective for its purpose and pleasant to participate in
- To provide participants with understanding of what is acceptable behaviour by themselves and by others
- To provide Forum Managers with clear guidance for assessing behaviour and for taking administrative actions where they are warranted
- To provide a sufficiently clear basis for assessing behaviour and invoking disciplinary measures where needed
- To provide guidance to participants who seek to play a 'peace-maker' role

**Behaviour**

**Things to do:**

- Be concise, focus on a single idea in each posting, and try to convey your point to readers with diverse perspectives
- Interact calmly and politely with other participants
- Constructively criticise arguments, but tolerate and respect viewpoints that differ from yours
- Treat participants as colleagues
- If intentionally making mildly contentious statements in order to stimulate debate, ensure that the posting contains a signal to that effect (e.g. 'to stimulate debate, ...', 'just suppose ...')
- Remember that postings may be widely read, are persistent, may be archived, and may be indexed by search-engines and hence subject to re-discovery over an extended period
- If you consider someone's behaviour is not consistent with this Code, you can communicate with the person (calmly) off-list, or [provide details to the Forum Manager](#).

**Things to not do:**

- Do not attack individuals
- Do not make comments that are, or may reasonably be perceived by others to be, aggressive, abusive, defamatory, discriminatory, racist or demeaning, or represent harassment or bullying
- Do not make inflammatory comments whose intention or likely effect is to provoke ill will within the ACS community or over-reactions from other participants ('troll bait')
- Do not make comments that are, or could be reasonably interpreted as being, party-political
- Do not publish sexual or violent imagery or written depictions of them
- Do not publish sexist, racist, or other exclusionary text, images or jokes
- Do not disclose information that is confidential, breaches trust or is privacy-sensitive
- Do not use the forum for commercial purposes
- Do not post material that breaches copyright