

CODE OF PRACTICE POLICY

Why have a Code of Practice?

A Code of Practice ensures natural medicine practitioners deliver safe, competent, and ethical care while upholding the credibility of the profession.

1. Scope of Practice & Competence

- **Defined Modalities:** Practitioners must only provide treatments and therapies for which they hold formal, recognized qualifications.
- **Continuous Education:** Practitioners must regularly update their clinical knowledge through requirements or similar continuing professional education benchmarks, for example via the ATMS.
- **Referrals:** Practitioners must recognize the limits of their expertise and refer clients to medical professionals or other allied health practitioners when appropriate.

2. Patient-Centred Care

- **Informed Consent:** Practitioners must fully explain proposed treatments, potential risks, and expected outcomes before proceeding.
- **Autonomy:** Clients must be encouraged to make informed, independent choices about their healthcare and treatment plans.
- **Respect and Dignity:** Practitioners must treat clients with compassion, respecting their cultural backgrounds, diversity, values, and individual vulnerabilities.

3. Safety and Hygiene

- **Safe Environments:** Clinical spaces must be maintained in a clean, hygienic, and safe condition compliant with Work Health and Safety (WHS) standards.
- **Product Safety:** Remedies, supplements, and equipment prescribed or used must be of high quality, legally obtained, and handled safely.
- **Minimizing Risk:** Practitioners must actively avoid acts of omission or commission that could adversely impact a client's wellbeing.

4. Confidentiality and Records

- **Privacy:** All client medical histories, personal details, and consultations must remain strictly confidential, adhering to state and federal privacy laws.
- **Documentation:** Accurate, contemporaneous, and secure clinical records must be maintained for each consultation.

5. Ethical Advertising and Professionalism

- **Truthful Claims:** Practitioners must not make false, misleading, or deceptive claims about the efficacy of natural therapies or their ability to cure specific conditions.
- **Professional Boundaries:** Practitioners must maintain clear, non-exploitative boundaries with clients, avoiding conflicts of interest.
- **Inter-professional Relationships:** Practitioners are expected to conduct themselves respectfully and collaboratively within the broader healthcare system.