

Policy statement

Dealing with real or perceived conflicts of interest between the roles of Manager of SISA and a JP

Definition

In setting this policy, I use the following description of 'conflict of interest' derived from the one set out on the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency website:

Generally a conflict of interest may occur if an interest or activity influences the ability of a person to exercise objectivity or impairs their ability to perform their duty...

A conflict of interest may exist even if no unethical or improper act results. This is because a conflict of interest can create an appearance or perception of impropriety, which can undermine the integrity of the powers or functions to be exercised...

Policy

1. To identify *potential* conflicts, I will seek key preliminary information from a person seeking my services as a JP – what services are sought, by whom, are they in support of some form of litigation or adversarial action, and if so, who the parties are, and so on.
2. As both the Manager of SISA and a JP, I will consider myself conflicted and would decline to provide JP services where:
 - a) One member organisation of SISA seeks my services as a JP in respect of any legal action or business transaction involving another member organisation of SISA.
 - b) An individual employed by a member organisation of SISA seeks my services as a JP in any legal or other adversarial action involving that member organisation of SISA or another member organisation of SISA.
 - c) My JP services are sought by any organisation, whether or not a member organisation of SISA, in which I have any direct or indirect financial or other personal interest (for example, through employing a direct family member).
 - d) A member of the Executive Committee of SISA seeks my services as a JP in any matter involving a member organisation of SISA, another member of the Executive Committee of SISA, a staff member of SISA or an employee of a member organisation of SISA.
 - e) A member of my direct family seeks my services as a JP.
 - f) An organisation that provides personal financial services to me or a member of my direct family, or an employee thereof, seeks my services as a JP for any reason.
3. In any of the above circumstances or in any other like circumstances, I would decline to act as a JP where there was any:
 - real conflict of interest; or
 - a likelihood of a conflict being perceived by another person, as defined above.