

30 April 2023

Dr Anoop Rastogi
President
Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery and Medicine

Via email: admin@accsm.org.au;

From: Adrian Cosenza
AEHA Chair
adrian.cosenza@ethicalhealth.org.au

Dear Dr Rastogi,

Re: The Australian Ethical Health Alliance (AEHA) – representing over 1 million health professionals, employees and trainees

I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to improving healthcare in Australia through your commitment to ethical practice and through being a signatory to the [Australian Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration in the Healthcare Sector](#) (ACF).

Where is AEHA now?

Today our membership consists of 78 organisations that represent approximately 25 million consumers/patients and over 1 million health professionals, employees and trainees. Together, our influence spans across the breadth of the Australian population and we are dedicated to achieving an equitable, sustainable and ethical health system that advances the health, wellbeing and interests of patients, communities and the healthcare sector.

Since AEHA's formation in 2018, we have made considerable progress in delivering the ethical implementation activities determined by the healthcare community, including having achieved the following:

- Developed, implemented and tracked ethical progress through an [AEHA Self-Evaluation Form](#), which provides practical activities to align practices and policies with the ACF
- Hosted three sector-wide symposiums: 'Ethics in the healthcare sector and its importance during times of crisis' (2020); 'The ethics of COVID-19 vaccination – from discovery to distribution' (2021); and 'COVID-19 and Equity' (2022);
- Developed, sought ethics approval and distributed a survey to track ethical matters relating to the COVID-19 response (February 2023);
- Recognised in global forums through speaking engagements amongst APEC nations;
- Contributed to the APEC Vision for 2025 and encouraged further flexibility to the model of the *Australian Consensus Framework*, incorporating high-level principles;
- Published an [AEHA academic publication](#) in the Journal of Internal Medicine Journal.

It also saw AEHA distribute a number of key media releases on ethical issues within our community, such as:

- [Equity and COVID – did we get it right?](#)
- ['Trust and partnership' key to increased vaccination uptake](#)
- [Urgent action on Royal Commission recommendations needed](#)
- [Healthcare sector the most ethical in Australia.](#)

I am pleased to report that AEHA also continues to lead the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region in delivering one of the largest ethical consensus frameworks of the APEC economies and is recognised for leadership and progress on the global stage.

Further information on our work is available at: www.ethicalhealth.org.au

AEHA Priority Plan 2022–2024

Over the past year, I'm pleased to share that AEHA has made significant progress on a priority plan that defines our vision, purpose and key areas of focus. Of the 25 deliverables, 1 is complete and 19 are in progress. Download the [AEHA Priority Plan 2022–2024](#).

We will continue to work towards our shared vision: “To achieve an equitable, sustainable and ethical health system that advances the health, wellbeing and interests of patients, communities and the healthcare sector.”

AEHA Self-Evaluation Form

As an AEHA member, you are asked to complete an AEHA *Self-Evaluation Form* on an annual basis. The 2022 reflective submission is now due for completion, and is a great way to track your organisation's ethical progress over the past 12 months.

The Form has been revised each year since its launch in 2020. This year the Steering Committee have launched two forms, a [full AEHA Self-Evaluation Form](#), which is aimed to be used as an entry into the Alliance and completed every second year, and a [condensed AEHA Self-Evaluation Form](#) for members to complete on every alternate year to the full Form. The shorter, condensed version has been developed in response to our members and aims to remove any burden on completing the full form each year.

I would now like to ask that you complete the Form. If in the last round of submissions your organisation completed the full Form, please complete the condensed form only. AEHA member organisations are not required to be compliant with all activities listed, but may wish to indicate an intent to implement the suggested activities. You may also wish to tailor some or all of the implementation activities to suit your own needs.

Please submit your completed Form to members@ethicalhealth.org.au by **30 June 2023**. Those members that completed a membership application in 2022 that included the Form, are not required to complete a further form.

10th APEC Business Ethics for SMEs Forum

APEC leadership have advised that the 10th APEC Business Ethics Forum for SMEs Forum will be held in person from 27–28 September 2023 in Washington, DC, United States. AEHA has been advised that the new Australian Embassy in Washington is due to open at or around that time, and is invited to consider hosting an Australian session around the time of the Forum. Liaison through the APEC secretariat in the US with the Australian Federal Government representatives is expected.

Please advise of your organisation's interest in sending a delegate to be a part of the Australian delegation via members@ethicalhealth.org.au.

Our appreciation

Your organisation plays a vital role in promoting ethical practices, and I would like to express my gratitude for your valuable contributions. I appreciate your involvement with AEHA and encourage you to connect with me directly if you have any feedback or suggestions.

Please note that AEHA continuously seeks volunteers to join our working groups, which assist with various AEHA operations. These include the AEHA Communications and Media Working Group, the AEHA Symposium Working Group, and the AEHA Funding Working Group. Please reach out to me should a representative from your organisation have interest in joining a working group. We also invite individuals to apply to join the AEHA Steering Committee every year, with elections launching in June.

I will continue to engage member organisations in AEHA's activities through updates such as these, as we continue to implement the ACF's ethical principles within the healthcare sector.

My sincere thanks for your continued efforts during another difficult year for the healthcare sector, and for your commitment to encouraging ethical practice throughout this time and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Cosenza
AEHA Chair
adrian.cosenza@ethicalhealth.org.au