

Statement of Business Ethics

Business Ethics

The CSO delivers legal services to NSW government agencies. The CSO relies on the support of commercial partners (including both government and non-government agencies) and suppliers to assist in delivering value as a service provider. CSO employees are expected to behave ethically and comply with the CSO Code Conduct. The CSO also expects high standards of behaviour from firms and individuals that do business with the Office.

The CSO Statement of Business Ethics gives guidance to commercial partners and suppliers on expected behaviours. All individuals and organisations that deal with the CSO must adopt these standards of ethical behaviour as the CSO is committed to promoting integrity, ethical conduct and accountability in all areas.

What the CSO asks of commercial partners and suppliers

All commercial partners and suppliers are required to observe the following principles when doing business with the CSO:

- Comply with applicable NSW Government procurement frameworks, policies, and codes of practice and the CSO's procurement policies and procedures and act ethically, fairly and honestly in all dealings.
- Not offer the CSO employees, contractors and consultants any financial inducements or any gifts, benefits, or hospitality.
- Declare actual or perceived conflicts of interest as soon as such matters arise.
- Prevent the disclosure of confidential CSO information and protect CSO intellectual property.
- Assist the CSO to prevent fraud, corruption and unethical practices in business relationships by reporting wrongdoing.

Why the CSO commercial partners and suppliers should comply

Non-compliance with stated ethical requirements when doing business with the CSO, as well as demonstrated corrupt or unethical conduct, could lead to:

- Termination of contracts.
- Loss of future work.
- Loss of reputation.
- Investigation for corruption.
- Matters being referred for criminal investigation.

What commercial partners and suppliers can expect from the CSO employees

CSO employees are bound by the core public sector values of integrity, trust, service and accountability as well as the Code of Conduct and are expected to:

- Ensure that decisions and actions are reasonable, fair and appropriate to the circumstances, based on consideration of all the relevant facts, and be supported by relevant legislation, policies and procedures.
- Accept responsibility and be accountable for their actions in accordance with delegated functions, accountabilities, and the requirements of the Code of Conduct.
- Actively promote the integrity and reputation of the public sector by always acting in the public interest and not engage in any activities that would bring the public sector into disrepute.
- Achieve the highest standards of ethics by treating Government, stakeholders, clients, suppliers and each other fairly and professionally.
- Provide relevant and responsive service to clients and customers, with all necessary and appropriate assistance in accordance with agreed service standards.

Expectations regarding contractors

All contractors and sub-contractors are expected to comply with the CSO Statement of Business Ethics, as well as the CSO Code of Conduct. Commercial partners and suppliers are responsible for making any of their sub-contractors aware of this statement.

Further assistance

Questions regarding the Statement of Business Ethics should be directed to:



Director, Finance & Support Services
Crown Solicitor's Office
crownsol@cs0.nsw.gov.au
(02) 9474 5000

Concerns about a possible breach or any conduct that could involve fraud, corrupt conduct, maladministration, or serious and substantial waste of public funds should be directed to:



Crown Solicitor
crownsol@cs0.nsw.gov.au