

Recital

Strata Community Australia (Vic) Inc [SCA (Vic)] has been supporting managers in their delivery of an ever increasing professional service for over two decades. At this point in time SCA (Vic) should consider itself as a professional yet maturing association capable of offering valuable advice and direction to all Stakeholders within the owners corporation industry.

An indication of the (good) standing of SCA (Vic) is its accountability to society and it is important that SCA (Vic), on behalf of its members, provides leadership in this area and establishes a code of practice for its members.

What is Social Responsibility?

Social responsibility is an ethical or ideological theory that an entity has a responsibility to society and is about improving the quality of relations with key Stakeholders.

Furthermore it is the responsibility of the membership of SCA (Vic) for the impacts of its decisions and activities on society and the environment through transparent and ethical behaviour that:

- contributes to sustainable development including health and the welfare of society, and
- takes into account the legitimate interests and expectations of Stakeholders, and
- is in compliance with applicable law, and
- is integrated through its membership and practiced within its sphere of influence.

Principles of Social Responsibility

In understanding the fundamental expectations of social responsibility the membership needs to understand its six principles, being:

- accountability
- transparent ethical behaviour
- respect for Stakeholders interests
- respect for the rule of law
- economic, social and cultural rights
- fundamental principles and rights at work

Importance of Social Responsibility

Organisations are increasingly being judged by their performance in relation to society and their impact on the environment and are subject to increasing expectations of Stakeholders, including customers, employees, the community, non-government organisations, as well as lenders insurers and investors.

An organisations performance on social responsibility can influence, among other things:

- its competitive edge
- its reputation
- its ability to attract and retain workers or members, customers, clients or users
- maintaining employee's morale, commitment and productivity
- the view of investors, owners, donors, sponsors and the financial community, and
- its relationship with companies, governments, the media, suppliers, peers, customers and the community in which it operates.

In relation to its individual members the Council on behalf of SCA (Vic) provides guidance and direction in the area of ethical behaviour (refer Ethical Policy) and has the role of enforcing this policy with reference to the Professional Standards – Ethics/Complaints Subcommittee.

The moral fabric of SCA (Vic) is determined by that of its members and whilst this cannot be directly influenced by SCA (Vic), members can be guided and encouraged to act appropriately.

The simplest way in supporting the philosophy of social responsibility is by means of a charitable donation.

In order to make a charitable donation either an amount can be included in the annual budget of SCA (Vic) and/or alternatively a fund raising event (or events) could be scheduled during the course of each year and accordingly the (net) amount raised be appropriately donated.

Charities

SCA (Vic) will promote donations to Charities which have the need to utilise property in the form of emergency, short and long term accommodation to the underprivileged and to Charities which work closely with general issues of health affecting both men and women.