

Item 7: Draft Code of Ethics and Professional Practice

A process of revising PHANZA's code of practice has been initiated. To maintain professional standards it is essential to have a shared understanding of what those standards are. It is also essential that these standards are revised periodically to maintain their relevance. The previous code of practice was prepared by David Green in 1998. Although it has served PHANZA well, especially for historians working on commission, it has remained static and no longer fully reflects the circumstances in which history is produced.

Sonja Mitchell was invited to present some initial thoughts on researching and writing history in a way that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi in 2019 as a step towards the creation of a shared kete whakaaro. Earlier this year, another step was taken, in the form of a revised code of ethics and professional practice drafted by Fiona McKergow and David Green. This was informed by Sonja's document as well as the codes of similar historical organisations. It goes beyond practice to include ethics and is arranged according to four areas of responsibility: to the public, to the profession, to clients and employers, and to oneself. Together these documents are intended to open a space for constructive discussion among members as we continue to negotiate the past, present and future as a historical profession.

There will be a motion to approve the replacement of the 1998 Code of Practice with the 2021 Draft Code of Ethics and Professional Practice.