

SUMMARY OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SCHEME

Occupational Association

The Australian Computer Society Inc. (ACS) is the recognised association for information and communication technology professionals. It is a national organisation and has representation in each state and territory.

Scheme jurisdiction

The Australian Computer Society Professional Standards Scheme (the scheme) will apply in New South Wales and other Australian states and territories, subject to mutual recognition provisions under their respective professional standards legislation.

Application of the scheme

The scheme will apply to ACS members who qualify as Certified Computer Professionals. A list of Certified Computer Professionals will be published on the ACS web site.

Nature of the liability to be limited

The scheme operates for the purpose of improving the operational standards of ICT professionals and to protect the consumers of their services. It limits the civil liability of ACS Certified Computer Professional members.

The liability limited by the scheme includes, to the extent permitted by the Act, all civil liability arising (in tort, contract or otherwise) directly or vicariously from anything done or omitted by any person to whom the scheme applies in acting in the performance of their occupation. The scheme does not apply to liability for damages arising from any matter to which the Act does not apply, including but not limited to, liability for damages arising from death or personal injury to a person, breach of trust, fraud or dishonesty.

The amount of damages above which ACS Certified Computer Professional members are not liable is \$1.5 million. A member may apply to the ACS to specify a higher amount of liability, not exceeding \$10 million, than would otherwise apply under the scheme. A member may apply to the ACS to be exempted from the scheme.

Standards of insurance for scheme participants

Certified Computer Professional members must have an insurance policy that complies with the standards set by the ACS, for at least the amount appropriate to their level of liability as defined in the scheme. They are also required to provide a detailed Certified Computer Professional activity statement declaring compliance with the ACS insurance standards and that they have available funds to cover any excess within the policy.

Risk management

ACS members undergo a rigorous assessment process on application for certified membership of the ACS. Certified Computer Professional members, as with all ACS members, are bound by the ACS Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct. In addition, Certified Computer Professional members must undertake continuing professional development programs that are assessed annually by the ACS.

Certified Computer Professional members are required to undertake 30 hours of continuing professional development activities annually and update details of each activity in their ACS member record. This ensures that Certified Computer Professional members are up to date with all the knowledge necessary for a competent ICT professional.

Complaints and discipline

All ACS members are subject to the ACS complaints and discipline system. The complaints and discipline system allows complaints about the professional conduct of members to be investigated, evaluated and, where appropriate, disciplinary action to be taken.

Claims monitoring

Certified Computer Professional members are required to contact the ACS as soon as they are aware of any claim against them. The Chair of the ACS Disciplinary Committee will monitor the claim over its life and then determine whether any action is necessary and advise the Professional Standards Compliance Committee of any risk management issues that might arise from the claim.

Administration of the scheme

The scheme will be managed by the Professional Standards Compliance Committee of the ACS. The committee is appointed by the Professional Standards Board and the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee. The Professional Standards Compliance Committee reports annually to the ACS Management Committee.

The Chair of the Disciplinary Committee is responsible for claims and insurance monitoring under the scheme and reporting on any insurance activity.

Further information

Further information on the ACS and the Australian Computer Society Professional Standards Scheme are available from www.acs.org.au. A register of members to whom the ACS scheme applies is published on the ACS web site.