

Guidelines on public comment by members of Chartered Secretaries Australia

From time to time members of Chartered Secretaries Australia (CSA) may be called upon or choose to enter the public arena in their professional or expert capacity in order to comment on an issue of public interest. As part of the strategic mission of CSA to ensure members are at the forefront of their profession and able to transmit expert knowledge, this public role for members is encouraged. It is recognised, however, that some issues may be sensitive within the community. For that reason it is important to clarify the basis on which members may take a public role. The following statements have been drawn up to assist members by making clear CSA's expectations.

Guidelines

1. Public statements on behalf of CSA should only be made by persons authorised by the CSA Board or the Committee for Australia.
2. The use of CSA letterhead is restricted to the conduct of CSA business or where the member is commenting on a public issue as defined by these guidelines.
3. Members writing or speaking publicly in a professional or expert capacity may identify themselves as Chartered Secretaries and as members of CSA but may not, unless authorisation has been granted as above, use the name of CSA in their public statement. They should also indicate, when appropriate, that their opinions may not reflect the views of CSA but are personal views.
4. CSA expects members will maintain the highest professional and ethical standards when they identify themselves as members of CSA in public statements. In determining what constitutes professional or expert comment members should be guided by good judgment and common sense.
5. If a member has reason to believe that any public statement may cause harm or conflict or in any other way involve CSA in a matter of public sensitivity, the member is to alert the Publishing Manager immediately.