



New Behaviour Management Framework expected to start November 2022

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Following consultation with member councils, the Local Government Association has been advised the Minister for Local Government intends for a new Behaviour Management Framework to commence immediately following next year's council elections.

The framework, which is part of a series of local government reforms, will apply to all council members elected in the November 2022 periodic elections and consists of:

- Behavioural Standards
- Behavioural Management Policy (Mandatory)
- Behavioural Support Policy (Optional)

Behavioural Standards

New state-wide standards of expected behaviour and values, known as Behavioural Standards, will be introduced and replace the current Code of Conduct for Council Members.

Behavioural Management Policy

To implement the framework, each council must have a Behavioural Management Policy detailing how they will manage compliance with the Behavioural Standards and the procedures for lodging, assessing, investigating, and dealing with complaints.

The LGA will prepare a model Behavioural Management Policy and guidance materials to assist councils with this process. The Minister has agreed the LGA's model policy will initially apply to all councils after the periodic elections. Councils can adopt their own Behavioural Management Policy at any time after this. Community consultation must be completed before a new Behavioural Management Policy is adopted.

Behavioural Support Policy

A Behavioural Support Policy can be adopted by councils to supplement the Behavioural Standards. Councils will have 6 months after the periodic elections to decide whether they intend to adopt a Behavioural Support Policy.

Other legislative changes

Several other amendments to the Local Government Act will commence at the same time as the Behavioural Management Framework. These include changes to:

- conflict of interest provisions
- integrity provisions
- powers of the presiding member to enable the removal of a council member from the chamber for 15 minutes
- register of gifts and benefits
- mandatory training for council members.

Training and more information

Information and training about the new framework and Behavioural Standards will be available for candidates running for local government elections. This will also be included in council member induction programs following the conclusion of the November 2022 council elections.

Find out more about the [local government reforms](#).



for more information...

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