

Merri Outreach Support Service

Conflict of Interest - Committee Policy:

Situations will occasionally arise where a member of the Merri Outreach Support Service (MOSS) Committee of Management has a vested interest in a particular discussion or decision being made. This would include situations where a member might stand to gain financially from a decision being made. It might also include situations where there is a significant personal connection with the issue or person being discussed (eg a committee member who is a current consumer is working with that staff member, or a committee member is personal friends with them).

Deciding whether there is a conflict of interest can be difficult. When determining whether a committee member has a vested interest in an issue, it is important to focus on the relationship that person's role has to the organisation and to the other roles within it. It is also important to look at the particular responsibilities the person has, and the rights that stem from these.

When a committee member declares a conflict of interest in a meeting, a number of options are available to the Committee:

1. The person may choose to absent themselves from the discussion
2. The Committee may, after discussion, decide that
 - the person can stay in the meeting and take part in the discussion, but not be part of the final decision
 - the person can stay in the meeting, but not be part of discussion or decision making, or
 - the person has to leave the meeting while the issue is being discussed and decided upon

Ratified: Originally ratified 1999

Reviewed: October 2007