

Museum Essentials: Working Ethically

David Mann transcript

The Code of Ethics is a fantastic place to start if you're not used to dealing with ethics on a daily basis.

There are times when we refer to the Ethics Code to make sure that we're working correctly, that we're staying true to the ethos of the museum.

Ethics is not something that we think about on a daily or weekly basis, it's the way that we work, it's the way that we do business, it's the way that we govern the organisation, and it's carried through from the Board all the way through to our volunteers.

Eighteen months ago, we started Irvine Harbourside Men's Shed dealing with male social isolation but not in a prescriptive way, so the Men's Shed will decide what the Men's Shed want to do and work on.

Our volunteers, our staff are all involved in the development of our strategy and in the long term hopefully the museum will see its role in the community enhanced and we'll develop a project that allows the community to benefit from the Men's Shed as well as the museum.

Thinking ethically and using the Code of Ethics allows us to interpret exhibitions in an unbiased manner and we can deliver exhibitions that tell both sides of the story without undue pressure from any source.

We hope that our staff develop with that integrity whether they're working here or working with any other organisation.

New museums setting up and using the Code of Ethics from the Board down to the staff can benefit the community and those that engage with the museum in a wider context rather than just the collections.