



# LEADERSHIP

*everybody's business*

Everybody at ACER can provide leadership in their day-to-day work.  
The ACER Leadership Framework identifies a range of leadership behaviours.

## Setting Directions

Leadership involves strategic thinking and planning for the future.

- monitoring external developments and evaluating their implications for ACER
- identifying opportunities for new approaches and areas of work
- identifying how work could be improved or done differently in the future
- securing the commitment of others to pursue future possibilities
- setting goals, strategies and timelines for achieving plans

## Pursuing Excellence

Leadership involves an ongoing search for new and better ways of working.

- setting and pursuing high standards in day-to-day work
- identifying and implementing 'best-practice' methods and solutions
- supporting and encouraging questioning, risk-taking and innovation
- working to improve internal systems and processes
- acknowledging excellence and celebrating success

## Working Collaboratively

Leadership involves building highly effective internal and external relationships.

- contributing to highly effective, collaborative team environments
- promoting cooperation and cohesiveness and capitalising on expertise and synergies across ACER
- acknowledging and respecting the perspectives of others
- building and maintaining productive long-term relationships with external agencies, clients, suppliers and partners
- disseminating and promoting ACER's work to external audiences

## Supporting Colleagues

Leadership involves supporting and contributing to the development of others.

- actively promoting a learning culture in which everybody is expected to learn and develop
- providing opportunities for colleagues to learn and gain experience
- sharing own expertise, including by mentoring and developing the skills of less experienced staff
- developing an awareness of colleagues' strengths, interests and expertise
- working to ensure that ACER has highly capable staff

## Embracing Change

Leadership involves being open to change and leading change when appropriate.

- accepting change as a necessary aspect of organisational development
- explaining the reasons for particular changes
- leading change in areas of responsibility
- planning for change and communicating the implications of change to others
- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of change
- dealing constructively with inappropriate opposition to change

## Developing Self

Leadership involves self-management, self-reflection and self-improvement.

- seeking regular feedback on own performance
- understanding own strengths and weaknesses and creating plans for self-development
- welcoming new challenges and opportunities for personal growth
- adopting a positive attitude to mistakes and the opportunities they provide for learning
- modelling openness, honesty, integrity and compassion

## MISSION

ACER's mission is to create and promote research-based knowledge and tools that can be used to improve learning across the lifespan.

## CORE BELIEF

Underlying this mission is our belief in the importance of ongoing, lifelong learning both for the fulfilment of individuals and for the well-being of society, and our commitment to the use of systematic investigation, evaluation and critical reflection in the search for ways to improve learning.

## ACER VALUES

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**Expertise** – producing high quality, innovative research and research-based services and materials to improve learning
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**Innovation** – taking a creative, flexible and bold approach to the development of knowledge, services and materials
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**Independence** – providing advice and commentary that is informed through research, is authoritative, and non-aligned
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**Integrity** – being ethical, honest and trustworthy in all our relationships and interactions
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**Responsiveness** – anticipating, understanding, meeting and exceeding client and customer expectations
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**Reflection & improvement** – being self-reflective and listening to and learning from others in order to improve the quality of our work, our efficiency and productivity
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**Positive relationships** – creating an organisational environment characterised by respect, fairness, openness and support of physical and emotional wellbeing
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**Individual fulfilment** – encouraging personal contribution and achievement, and the pursuit of excellence

