

Ethics in the Workplace

**LGMA Future Leaders' Forum
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Ethics – what is it?

"...the word 'ethics' often suggests a set of standards by which a particular group or community decides to regulate its behaviour – to distinguish what is legitimate or acceptable in pursuit of their aims from what is not"

(Flew cited in May 1997)

The vexed question:

Is it OK to tell a little white lie??

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No?

- Lying is morally wrong
- Therefore lying is unacceptable behaviour in any context

Yes?

- It depends on the context/circumstances
- To avoid creating additional problems
- To protect someone or some program

Unravelling the 'context'

The context is made up of many things:

- you as individual
- you as a member of your workplace / profession
- you as a member of broader society

You as individual

- Your socialisation
- Your subject position(s)
- The variability of your subject position at different moments / locations
- Your view of the world

You as member of profession/work

- Professional training shapes your world view (Codes of Conduct)
- Influence of particular workplace culture & colleagues

You as a member of broader society

- Socio-cultural norms or values are extremely important
- But.....these are often taken-for-granted
- May be different to other cultural groups

How to negotiate ethical dilemmas

- There is no one simple guide!!!!
- Acknowledge your own positionality
- Always act with integrity