

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

INTRODUCTION

1. This document embodies the Conflict of Interest Management Policy for **Autus Fund Managers (FSP 4221)**.
2. “Conflict of interest” means any situation in which Autus Fund Managers or its representatives has an actual or potential interest that may, in rendering a financial service to a client influence the objective performance of his, her or its obligations to that client; or prevent Autus Fund Managers or its representatives from rendering an unbiased and fair financial service to that client, or from acting in the interests of that client, including, but not limited to
 - i. a financial interest;
 - ii. an ownership interest;
 - iii. any relationship with a third party (“third party” means
 - a. a product supplier,
 - b. another provider,
 - c. an associate of a product supplier or a provider;
 - d. a distribution channel;
 - e. any person who in terms of an agreement or arrangement with a person referred to in paragraphs (a) to (d) above provides a financial interest to a provider or its representatives.)
3. The primary objectives of this Policy are:
 - i. To provide guidance on the behaviours expected in accordance with Autus Fund Managers standards;
 - ii. To promote transparency and to avoid business-related COI;
 - iii. To ensure fairness in the interests of employees and Autus Fund Managers;
 - iv. To document the process for the disclosure, approval and review of activities that may amount to actual, potential or perceived COI;
 - v. To provide a mechanism for the objective review of personal outside interests.
4. Autus Fund Managers is committed to ensuring that all business is conducted in accordance with good business practice. To this end Autus Fund Managers conducts business in an ethical and equitable manner and in a way that safeguards the interests of all stakeholders to minimize and manage all real or potential conflict of interest (COI). Autus Fund Managers and its representative must therefore avoid (or mitigate where avoidance is not possible) any COI between Autus Fund Managers and a client or its representative and a client.

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A. FINANCIAL INTEREST

1. Autus Fund Managers or its representatives may only receive or offer financial interest from or to a third party as determined by the Registrar of Financial Services Providers from time to time, and as set out in Annexure A hereto.
2. "Financial interest" means any cash, cash equivalent, voucher, gift, service, advantage, benefit, discount, domestic and foreign travel, hospitality, accommodation, sponsorship, other incentive or valuable consideration, other than –
 - i. an ownership interest
 - ii. training, that is not exclusively available to a selected group of providers or representatives on products and legal matters relating to those products; general financial and industry information; specialized technological systems of a third party necessary for the rendering of a financial service; but excluding travel and accommodation associated with that training.
3. Autus Fund Managers may not offer any financial interest to its representatives for giving preference to the quantity of business secured for the provider to the exclusion of the quality of the service rendered to clients; OR giving preference to a specific product supplier, where a representative may recommend more than one product supplier to a client; OR giving preference to a specific product of a product supplier, where a representative may recommend more than one product supplier to a client.

B. MECHANISMS FOR IDENTIFYING COI

All representatives, key individuals and directors must complete a disclosure declaration. Steps will be taken against individuals who refuse to sign the disclosure declaration or who neglect to disclose any conflict of interest.

C. RESOLVING COI

1. The first and most important line of defense against COI or commitment must be by the key individuals and representatives themselves.
2. The matter of COI will be considered by the board and immediate steps will be taken to eliminate the COI.

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D. POTENTIAL COI THAT COULD AFFECT AUTUS FUND MANAGERS

1. The following are potential COI that could affect Autus Fund Managers:
 - i. additional directorships or other employment;
 - ii. interests in business enterprises or professional practices;
 - iii. share ownership;
 - iv. beneficial interests in trusts;
 - v. personal Account Trading;
 - vi. professional associations or relationships with other organisations;
 - vii. personal associations with other groups or organizations, or family relationships;
 - viii. Front running;
 - ix. Rebates;
 - x. Kickbacks; and
 - xi. Commission

E. MEASURES TO AVOID COI:

1. All employees of Autus Fund Managers will receive training on COI to ensure they will be able to identify and disclose any COI when it arises.

F. DISCLOSURE OF COI:

1. At the earliest reasonable opportunity, Autus Fund Managers and its representative must, in writing, disclose to a client any COI in respect of that client including –
 - i. Measures taken to avoid or mitigate the conflict;
 - ii. Any ownership interest or financial interest that the provider or representative may be have or become eligible for;
 - iii. The nature of the relationship or arrangements with a third party that gives rise to a COI in sufficient detail to enable the client to understand the exact nature of the COI.
2. At the earliest reasonable opportunity, Autus Fund Managers and its representative must, in writing, inform a client of the Conflict of Interest Management Policy and how it may be accessed.
3. Notification of an actual or potential COI should be made to a person with responsibility for the issue or area, such as the relevant management team, supervisor, head of the department or key individual.

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4. In accordance with an employee's obligation to act in the best interest of his or her employer, it is not permissible for employees to engage in conduct that would amount to a COI with Autus Fund Managers.
5. Staff that fail to disclose a potential or actual COI in accordance with this policy may be liable to disciplinary procedures as governed by relevant industrial awards or agreements.

G. PROCESSES, PROCEDURES AND INTERNAL CONTROLS TO FACILITATE COMPLIANCE WITH THE POLICY

1. Every staff member must have a copy of the Conflicts of interest Management Policy.
2. If a potential COI arises, the transaction must first be discussed with management before entering into the transaction.

H. CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE POLICY BY THE PROVIDER'S EMPLOYEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

1. Non-compliance with this policy and the procedures described in it may be considered to be misconduct and employees may be subject to disciplinary action that may lead to dismissal.

I. LIST OF ALL AUTUS FUND MANAGERS' ASSOCIATES

1. Cape Tax Company – Accountants
2. Etienne Genis Attorneys – Legal matters
3. Elastic PC – IT matters
4. Boshoff Visser Inc – Auditors
5. MET Collective Investments – Manco
6. Allan Gray – LISP
7. Glacier by Sanlam - LISP

J. NAMES OF ANY THIRD PARTIES IN WHICH THE PROVIDER HOLD AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST

None

K. NAMES OF ANY THIRD PARTIES THAT HOLDS AN OWNERSHIP IN THE PROVIDER

Anju Trust is the majority owner of Autus Wealth (Pty) Ltd, Reg no 2002/014261/07, which in turn owns 100% of Autus Fund Managers (Pty) Ltd, Reg no 2004/002464/07.

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Anju Trust also owns financial advisory firm Autus Private Clients (Pty) Ltd, Reg no 2002/026304/07. This relationship between Autus Private Clients and Autus Fund Managers may represent a potential or perceived conflict of interest. This conflict of interest relates to clients of Autus Private Clients being recommended to consider unit trust funds managed by Autus Fund Managers for inclusion in their investment portfolios when allocating such investments. It is our view that this apparent conflict is endemic to the investment arena, in that those firms and professionals who are highly qualified and experienced in investment matters will almost without exception employ such expertise both in investing and in advising on investments. As a result, the same apparent conflict exist within the majority of financial services groups in some way or another.

Within the Autus Wealth group of companies, this conflict is addressed though providing the advisory services and investment products in two separately licensed entities, who each stand accountable to clients and to the regulator (the Financial Services Board) in its own right:

- **Autus Private Clients (FSP4766)**
 - complies with industry best practice in rendering an unbiased and fair financial service to its clients;
 - strives to act in the best interest of its clients and to
 - leave a verifiable audit trail confirming the same by issuing records of advice in accordance with the FAIS Act.

The Financial Planning Institute of Southern Africa have independently ratified Autus Private Clients in this regard by classifying it as an FPI Approved Professional Practice™, a designation awarded to practices adhering to the highest standards of professionalism.

- **Autus Fund Managers (FSP4221)** manages the unit trust funds under its control strictly in accordance with the legislation and regulatory codes and framework relevant thereto. This includes, but is not limited to, the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act and the FAIS Act. Each fund can therefore only invest in approved assets, is managed in accordance with a clearly defined and documented mandate, is measured against recognised benchmarks and the resultant performance is freely accessible in the financial media – printed and online.

ANNEXURE A - FINANCIAL INTEREST

The Registrar of Financial Services Providers issued Board Notice 58 of 2010 (BN 58) under section 15 of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, 2002 (FAIS). BN 58 amends the General Code of Conduct for Authorised Financial Services Providers and Representatives under FAIS and determines that a financial services provider or its representatives may only receive or offer financial interest from or to a third party as follows:

- i. Commission authorised under the Long-term Insurance Act or Short-term Insurance Act;

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- ii. Commission authorised under the Medical Schemes Act;
- iii. Fees authorised under the Long-term Insurance Act, the Short-term Insurance Act or the Medical Schemes Act, if those fees are reasonably commensurate to a service being rendered;
- iv. Fees for the rendering of a financial service in respect of which commission or fees referred to in sub-paragraph (i), (ii) or (iii) is not paid, if those fees –
 - aa. are specifically agreed to by a client in writing; and
 - ab. may be stopped at the discretion of that client.
- v. fees or remuneration for the rendering of a service to a third party, which fees or remuneration are reasonably commensurate to the service being rendered;
- vi. subject to any other law, an immaterial financial interest*; and
- vii. a financial interest, not referred to under sub-paragraph (i) to (vi), for which a consideration, fair value or remuneration that is reasonably commensurate to the value of the financial interest, is paid by that provider or representative at the time of receipt thereof.

Note

* “immaterial financial interest” means any financial interest with a determinable monetary value, the aggregate of which does not exceed R1 000 in any calendar year from the same third party in that calendar year received by –

- a) a provider who is a sole proprietor; or
- b) a representative for that representative’s direct benefit;
- c) a provider, who for its benefit or that of some or all of its representatives, aggregates the immaterial financial interest paid to its representatives.

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ANNEXURE B – DISCLOSURE DECLARATION

I, _____, holding the position of a key individual / representative / employee (underline applicable roles) within Autus Fund Managers, herewith declare that I will immediately disclose any information regarding a conflict of interest of any sort within Autus Fund Managers when it arises.

Signature & date