WHAT IS THE BANKING AND FINANCE OATH?

The vision of The Banking and Finance Oath (The BFO) is for a banking and finance industry that meets the community's needs and has its full confidence.

The BFO is a set of professional principles voluntarily entered into by individuals who choose to be accountable to each other for upholding them. The BFO can be considered a Hippocratic-type oath for those working in banking and finance.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SIGNATORY?

Signatories of The BFO promise to abide by and uphold the principles of the Oath. Signatories are affirming they respect the position of trust accorded to them by society and are registered with their names published on The BFO website.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A SIGNATORY?

- The BFO provides an opportunity for individuals to contribute to an initiative focused on promoting integrity, ethics and trust in banking and finance.
- The BFO allows individuals to publicly demonstrate their leadership and commitment to high ethical standards.
- The BFO provides a shared language of ethics and connects individuals with like-minded people across the sector including CEOs, Chairs and Directors.
- Signatories are publicly listed on The BFO website and provided with a Signatory Seal for use as an email signature or on public profiles.
- Signatories receive exclusive invitations to events focused on leadership, ethics and integrity.
- Signatories receive regular newsletters keeping them abreast of developments in ethics in banking and finance.
- Signatories can impact workplace cultures and facilitate positive change that looks beyond regulation and responds to customer interests.
- Signatory status stays with the individual irrespective of employer or position, serving as an 'ethics passport'.
- The booklet 'Ethics in practice for banking and finance' can be made available on request.
- The Ethics Centre, as a supporter of The BFO, provides a free service where Signatories can book an hour with an ethics counsellor to discuss a dilemma or assist with decision-making.

STATEMENT FROM THE BFO CHAIRMAN

"Years of experience as a financial regulator, in good times and in crisis, have confirmed to me that financial institutions are much more likely to prosper if their culture is one that promotes accountability, transparency and strong ethical principles. However, an institution's culture will have feet of clay if it is not built on and supported by individual integrity. And there is no more simple or more powerful expression of an individual's commitment to act with integrity than the statement 'my word is my bond'."

DR. JOHN LAKER AO