

# Anglican Board of Mission – Australia

## Policy A1041

### Community Development and Non-Development Activities Policy

Approved by the ABM Board April, 2019

To be reviewed no later than 2022

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#### **Introduction and context**

ABM is committed to ensuring that it accurately and transparently represents its activities to the people it works with, its donors, its funders and the public.

ABM raises and manages funds in order to engage with its church partners, both in Australia and overseas, via two distinct models:

1. *Aid and Development*, which is conducted by ABM's Anglicans in Development unit – ABM(AID); and
2. *Evangelism and Church Support*, which is conducted by ABM's Church to Church (C2C) and Reconciliation units.

ABM occasionally funds overseas projects, via the Australian Government's Overseas Aid Gift Deductibility Scheme (OAGDS), which may be classed as *Welfare*. However, these activities are also clearly separated from ABM's *Aid and Development* activities.

From time to time ABM's activities may also include the support of partners who engage in political activities as part of their response to the imperative to alleviate poverty. However, ABM will not use funds raised via the Australian Government's Overseas Aid Gift Deductibility Scheme (OAGDS) to fund such activities.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is:

- i. To acknowledge that *Aid and Development* work and *Evangelism and Church Support* belong together in the life of churches, both within Australia and within our partner churches.
- ii. To guide ABM, and its stakeholders and partners, in making clear separations between *Aid and Development* activities on the one hand, and non-*Development* activities such as *Evangelism*

and *Church Support, Partisan Political Activities and Welfare* on the other.

- iii. To address ABM's compliance obligations with the Code of the Australian Council for International Development ("the ACFID Code of Conduct") when communicating with or soliciting donations from private donors and the public, including fundraising for restricted and unrestricted purposes from aid agencies, sponsors and supporters, and fundraising from the general public.

## Scope

This policy is intended to apply to the whole of ABM: its governing body and committees, its employees and volunteers, its marketing and communication activities, its programming and advocacy activities, and its reporting to the public and other bodies. This policy also extends to ABM(AID)'s *Aid and Development* partners and associated implementing organisations.

## Definitions

### *Aid and Development*

Activities which address poverty and its causes and/or address global social justice issues, and those which provide emergency relief, disaster recovery, and meet the immediate needs of refugees and internally displaced people. *Development* activities are those which aim to improve the long-term well-being of individuals and communities in developing countries. *Development* activities must demonstrate: fair distribution; be informed by local people; and deliver sustained or lasting benefits.<sup>1</sup> *Development* activities carried out by ABM are governed by the following policies and guiding principles:

- D2026 Guiding Principles for AMB(AID)'s Strengths-based Approach
- D2030 Guiding Principles on Alleviation of Poverty
- D1017 Human Rights-based Development Approach
- D1018 Community Participation and Inclusivity Policy
- D1021 Sustainable Impacts in Community *Development* Policy
- D1024 Capacity *Development* Policy
- D2025 Policy on *Development* Partnerships
- D1028 Disability and *Development* Policy
- D1032 Gender and *Development* Policy
- D2032 Church Agencies Network (CAN) Guiding Principles on Proselytization and Poverty

Humanitarian *Aid* activities carried out by ABM are governed by the *Core Humanitarian Standards*<sup>2</sup> and by the following ABM policies:

- D1033 Humanitarian Response Policy
- D1034 Protection Policy

### *Church support*

Activities which contribute to the support of the church for its own sake, as distinct from activities which help ABM's implementing church partners to develop and strengthen appropriate systems for engaging in *Aid and Development* activities.

### *Evangelism*

Activities whose purpose is to promote a particular religious belief or adherence to a particular faith or denomination.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, February, 2016, *Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme Guidelines*, p.9.

<sup>2</sup> Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability, found at <https://corehumanitarianstandard.org/the-standard>. Accessed 7/2/2019.

### *Partisan political activities*

These are activities that are associated with facilitating or supporting a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.

For the purpose of this policy '*Partisan political activities*' include:

- ABM's or its partners' staff being involved in party political activities;
- Using funds or resources to facilitate or support a specific political party, candidate, or party political organisation in a local, regional or general/ national election;
- Using funds or resources to facilitate or support a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a political party structure.<sup>3</sup>

### *Proselytisation*

Activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another<sup>2</sup>.

### *Welfare*

Welfare activities are defined as care and maintenance, which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer-term basis, and are not eligible for ANCP funding. Substantial and broad impact on social and economic conditions in the community is not normally expected from *Welfare* programs. *Welfare* may be provided to an individual or family basis including home-based and institutional care programs, such as those provided by orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospices and the provision of food for those who are destitute. *Welfare* activities are typically:

- implemented independently of other sustainable community *Development* activities;
- include no strategy for integration into broader community *Development* programs;
- provided on an individual or family basis, rather than on a community basis, and are unconnected to emergency needs; and
- implemented on a long term basis with no clear exit strategy.<sup>4</sup>

### **Guiding Principles**

a. Within ABM's understanding of *Aid and Development*, recognition of the spiritual dimension of a community's life is acknowledged. Any engagement with a community which seeks to change behaviour and/or practice cannot ignore this dimension. However, ABM does not seek to impose nor will it permit its partners to impose religious beliefs or values as part of or a condition of any of its *Aid and Development* activities or in conjunction with the same.

b. Accordingly, ABM(AID) will not fund or support the following:

- i. activities which promote a particular religious belief; and
- ii. activities which directly or indirectly require adherence to a set of religious beliefs.

c. ABM strongly supports the non-*Proselytisation* requirements of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct and accreditation with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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<sup>3</sup> Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, February, 2016, *Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme Guidelines*, pp.10-11.

<sup>4</sup> From Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, March, 2018, *Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) Manual*, p.18.

d. ABM strongly supports Compliance Indicator 7.3.2 of the *ACFID Code of Conduct* (part of Quality Principle 7 – Governance), ‘Member development initiatives consistently demonstrate the separation of development and non-development activities’.<sup>5</sup>

## Policy

- 1 ABM(AID) will ensure that its *Community Development* funding to its partners is not directed to communities on the basis of their being Anglicans or Christians, or on the basis of political affiliation, but that selection of *Community Development* projects is made on the basis of need and the local partner’s capacity to deliver the program.
- 2 ABM will ensure that there is a clear differentiation between *Aid and Development* activities on the one hand, and *Non-Development* Activities on the other, in all its *Advocacy* work.
- 3 Funds raised for overseas *Development* projects and *Humanitarian Aid* via the Australian Government’s Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS) will neither be used for *Evangelism* and *Church Support*, nor will they be used for *Partisan political activities*.
- 4 ABM will ensure that all its staff, and all volunteers seeking to assist partners, are cognizant of and agree to comply with this policy.
- 5 ABM(AID) will ensure that all relevant Partnership Agreements and Exchanges of Letters in respect of activities will include a clause committing partners to comply with this policy.
- 6 ABM will ensure that its promotion and education activities are in conformity with this policy and its preamble.
- 7 ABM will ensure that its *Community Development (AID)* funds are kept separate in its accounts from funding for non-development activities, including evangelism and church growth.
- 8 As ABM believes that development assistance must be provided on a non-discriminatory basis, the acceptance of specific political beliefs or membership in a particular political group must not be a condition for participating in relief and development programmes on an equal basis.
- 9 Clear reference will be made to this policy in ABM’s Partner Toolkits, and the Conditions of Funding Agreements signed by ABM’s *Development* and *Humanitarian Aid* implementing partners will confirm their acceptance of and compliance with the policy.
- 10 ABM will ensure separation of *Development* and *non-Development* activities in all stages of the project cycle, including partner capacity assessments, project appraisals, implementation, monitoring, learning and evaluation.
- 11 Any *Non-Development* components of a *Development* project will be managed, reported and accounted for separately to *Aid and Development* components.
- 12 ABM will ensure through its Guidelines and Procedures that *Development* and *Non-Development* activities will be reported separately, and clearly differentiated by means of a distinctive logo.
- 13 All ABM’s fundraising materials will be reviewed prior to publication to ensure that appeals and funding requests make a clear distinction between *Aid and Development* and *Non-Development* activities, via the use of visually identifying materials such as a distinctive logo.

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<sup>5</sup> ACFID Code of Conduct, <https://acfid.asn.au/content/commitment-73-we-are-accountable-our-stakeholders> . Accessed 7/2/2019.

- 14 Funds raised for non- *Development* activities will be tracked, managed and reported and accounted for separately to those raised for *Aid and Development* activities, as described in ABM's Communications Manual.

**Resources (most recent versions of the documents below)**

ACFID Code of Conduct and Good Practice Toolkit for Compliance Indicator 7.3.2

ACFID Code of Conduct: Definitions

DFAT's Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS) Guidelines

DFAT's Australian NGO Accreditation Guidance Manual

Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) Guidelines

AID Organisational Procedures Manual

ABM(AID)'s Partner Toolkits for (a) *Development* and (b) *Humanitarian Assistance*

ABM's Communications Manual

B2018 ABM Financial Procedures Manual

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed no later than 2022.