# Community Development and Non-Development Activities Policy

## Introduction and context

AID 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.

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

1. *Overseas Aid and Development*;
2. *Benevolent Support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples via Educational initiatives*; and
3. *Responses, through church partners, to disasters in Australia*.

AID may occasionally fund 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 AID's *Aid and Development* activities.

From time to time AID'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, AID will not use funds raised via the Australian Government's Overseas Aid Gift Deductibility Scheme (OAGDS) to fund such activities.

AID does not engage in Church Support or Evangelism. However, AID's parent company, Anglican Board of Mission Australia (ABM) does engage in such activities. These activities are completely separate from AID's activities and do not use funds raised for Community Development or Humanitarian Assistance.

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is:

i. To guide AID, 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 AID's compliance obligations with the Code of Conduct 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 AID: 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 AID's *Aid and Development* partners and associated implementing organisations.

## Guiding Principles

a. Within AID's understanding of *Development and Humanitarian initiatives*, 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, AID does not seek to impose, nor will we fund *Partners* who would seek to impose, religious beliefs or values as part of or as a condition of any of our *Development or Humanitarian initiatives* or in conjunction with the same.

b. Accordingly, 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. AID 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.

d. AID 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".

## Policy Commitments

1. AID will ensure that its *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 *Development Projects* is made on the basis of need and the local *Partner*'s *Capacity* to deliver the *Program*.

    4. AID will ensure that there is a clear differentiation between *Development* activities on the one hand, and Non-*Development* Activities on the other, in all its *Advocacy* work.

    5. Funds raised for overseas *Development and Humanitarian initiatives* 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*.

    6. AID will ensure that all its staff, and all volunteers seeking to assist partners, are cognizant of and agree to comply with this policy.

    7. AID will ensure that its promotion and *Education* activities are in conformity with this policy and its preamble.

    8. AID will ensure that its Community Development funds are kept separate in its accounts from funding for any non-development activities.

    9. As AID 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.

10  Clear reference will be made to this policy in AID's Partnership Agreements, annual Project Funding Agreements and Conditions of Funding Agreements and Partner Toolkits. Partners' signing of the Conditions of Funding Agreement will signify their acceptance of and compliance with this policy in respect of activities funded by AID.

11  AID 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.

12  Any *Non-Development* components of a *Development* project will be managed, reported and accounted for separately from *Aid and Development* components.

13  All AID'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.

14   Any funds raised for non-*Development* activities will be tracked, managed and reported and accounted for separately to those raised for *Aid and Development* activities.

## Responsibilities for the Implementation of this Policy

The AID Board will

- receive reports on AID's *Development and Humanitarian initiatives.*

AID's Head of Programs will

- ensure all AID's *Development and Humanitarian initiatives* comply with this policy.

AID's Program Manager – Effectiveness and Emergencies will

- Ensure that this policy is implemented through inclusion in AID's Project Cycle Management templates and its Partner Toolkits.

AID's Program Manager – Compliance will

- Ensure that this policy is implemented through inclusion in AID's Conditions of Funding agreements.

## Related Standards, Policies and Procedures

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

AID's Partner Toolkits for (a) *Development* and (b) Humanitarian Assistance
AID's Communications Manual
B2018 AID Program Finance Manual