



## **AFAP WELFARE, EVANGELISM & PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES POLICY**

### **1. PURPOSE**

This policy provides a framework to ensure that the Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific (AFAP) operates under a development philosophy that is consistent with the objectives of the Australian Aid Program and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. AFAP understands and ensures that funds and resources that are raised for aid and development purposes are used exclusively for such purposes, and will not be used for the purposes of promoting or supporting welfare activities, religious teaching and proselytisation, and/or partisan politics.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 AFAP is an independent, secular, not for profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO). Founded in Australia in 1968, AFAP was incorporated in the state of New South Wales in 1983. AFAP works with partners and communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

AFAP Vision: A just world through community partnerships.

AFAP Mission: To be a leading agent for poverty alleviation through community based development.

2.2 AFAP supports work that aims to address the underlying causes of poverty, not just the immediate effects of it. We do not want our work to create a cycle of dependency or to disempower the individuals or communities that we are working with in the long term. Our work is based on meeting stated objectives that are clearly defined, and developed to meet identified needs that are assessed using selection criteria that do not discriminate.

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2.3 AFAP is committed to supporting work that is of a high standard, and in doing so, holds full accreditation with the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). DFAT requires all accredited NGOs to develop an evangelical, welfare and partisan political policy, and ensure that all NGO personnel implementing DFAT-funded aid activities agree to it and abide by it. The purpose of DFAT's Policy is to ensure that Australian NGOs have development philosophies that are not inconsistent with the objectives of the Australian Aid Program, and are able to demonstrate the application of these philosophies within their operations.

2.4 AFAP is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct which requires high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management to be in place. The ACFID Code of Conduct (approved on October 2010, effective from January 2012) requires members to ensure that 'Funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development will be used only for those purposes and will not be used to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a political party, or to promote a candidate or organisation affiliated to a particular party' (Principle B.1.5 Non-development Activity).

### **3. POLICY**

3.1 Funds and other resources that are raised by or provided to AFAP for the purpose of aid and development (as defined in section 6 of this policy) must only be used for the purpose of aid and development.

3.2 Funds and other resources disbursed or used by AFAP which were designated as being for the purpose of aid and development must only be used for the purpose of aid and development.



3.3 AFAP must not fund or otherwise support any activity that is directed towards:

- Evangelism and/or Evangelism, Proselytism and Missionary Work (as defined in section 6 of this policy);
- Promotion of religious or political causes or political parties;
- Partisan Political Activities (as defined in section 6 of this policy); and,
- Provision of human welfare and/or welfare activities (as defined in section 6 of this policy).

3.4 Partners organisations (as defined in section 6 of this policy) implementing aid and development activities, funded by, or through, AFAP, must use the funds and/or resources only for (a) the purpose of aid and development, and (b) the particular aid and development activities for which the funding and/or resources were provided.

3.5 Partner organisations must not fund or otherwise support any activity that is directed towards:

- Evangelism and/or Evangelism, Proselytism and Missionary Work;
- Promotion of religious or political causes or political parties;
- Partisan Political Activities; and,
- Provision of welfare activities.

3.6 AFAP does not seek to support work that we would define as predominately welfare. However, from time to time, AFAP or our partners may engage in small-scale welfare activities, but only where they are addressing an immediate need and complement a development program that has a long-term exit strategy. When we support such welfare activities they are separately identified for accounting purposes.



3.7 AFAP is a secular organisation. While we work with religious groups in many places, we do not support work that is evangelistic in nature or that is concerned with proselytizing. We work with communities and individuals based on identified need. We do not discriminate based on religious affiliation.

3.8 AFAP targets communities based on clearly defined objectives and based on need. It is our role to not overtly comment on partisan political issues, either in Australia or in the countries in which we work. AFAP does not allow anyone to promote a political party or candidate using program funds and we do not discriminate against anyone based on their political affiliation. As a development focused, non-political and secular organisation, AFAP does not support activities, projects or programs that involve any activities of a partisan political or evangelistic nature. We also promote projects that have a development rather than a welfare focus.

3.9 Board members, staff, volunteers and contractors of AFAP and of its partner organisations must not, whilst implementing aid and development activities, undertake or participate in:

- Evangelism and/or Evangelism, Proselytism and Missionary Work;
- Promotion of religious or political causes or political parties;
- Partisan Political Activities; and,
- Provision of welfare activities.

3.10 If in their own time, board members, staff, volunteers and contractors of AFAP undertake or participate in:

- Evangelism and/or Evangelism, Proselytism and Missionary Work;
- Promotion of religious or political causes or political parties;
- Partisan Political Activities; and,
- Provision of welfare activities.

They must ensure that their activities:

- are not perceived or viewed as being on behalf of AFAP;

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- are not perceived or viewed as being representative of the views of AFAP;
- do not use the AFAP logo, AFAP funds and/or resources (e.g. computers, email systems, website, mobile phones, stationery or other office supplies);
- do not use funds and/or resources provided to implement aid and development activities funded by, or through, AFAP; and,
- particular care must be taken when personal views are expressed on social media (i.e. facebook, twitter, and email) that they do not undertake and/or participate in the above activities that in any way can be related to AFAP's views.

#### **4. POLICY APPLICATION**

4.1 AFAP works through a network of affiliated partners in developing countries. AFAP staff work closely with in-country personnel to identify, manage and implement programs that are in line with our mission and vision. This Policy will be included in all contracts and memoranda of understanding with partner organisations. AFAP staff are required to provide basic training to their partners about the definitions contained in this policy.

4.2 AFAP staff undertakes an initial appraisal and regularly monitors programs to ensure they meet AFAP policy standards using defined selection criteria and standard reporting methodologies. All AFAP Program and Project Folders contain standard project appraisals that are signed by the applicable AFAP staff member which assess whether they have components that may be related to the above issues. If there are issues, these are brought to the attention of senior management. In the event that an AFAP partner does engage in a small-scale welfare activity as defined above, this shall be noted on the form, brought to the attention of senior management team. These activities shall be separately identified for accounting purposes. All relevant supporting documentation is to be maintained in the relevant project files.



4.3 All aid and development activities funded by, or through, AFAP and partner organisation; and board members, staff, volunteers and contractors will be monitored to ensure that they are not in breach of this policy. In line with this and the AFAP Anti-terrorism Policy, the AFAP Executive Director will check relevant websites on a regular basis and keep Program staff alerted to organisations who are potentially high-risk.

4.4. AFAP's Executive Management are responsible for:

- ensuring that AFAP staff, board members, volunteers and contractors comply with all relevant legislation and AFAP policies (including this Policy); and,
- ensuring that all partner organisations and their board members, staff, volunteers and contractors implementing aid and development activities funded by, or through, AFAP, comply with all relevant legislation and AFAP policies (including this Policy)

4.5 The distinction between funds and/or resources used for aid and development activities and non-development activities will be maintained at all times (including in fundraising, project management, communications, annual reports and other reports.

4.6 The application of this Policy may be difficult in some situations, and analysis and sound judgment may be necessary. It is recognised that this Policy may not be able to address every situation. AFAP will ensure that the intent of this Policy is operationalised in the conduct of aid and development activities.

## **5. SCOPE**

5.1 This policy applies to all AFAP board members, staff, volunteers and contractors.



5.2 This policy applies to all Partner Organisations, and their board members, staff, volunteers and contractors implementing aid and development activities funded by, or through, AFAP.

## **6. DEFINITIONS**

### **Aid and Development Activities**

Activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and address global justice issues. In the non-government organisation sector, this may occur through a range of engagements that includes community projects, emergency management, community education, advocacy, volunteer sending, provision of technical and professional services and resources, environmental protection and restoration, and promotion and protection of human rights.

### **Evangelism (also called Proselytism and Missionary Work) Activities**

Any activity or practice associated with attempting to convert people from one religion or faith to another. Though these words are of Christian origin, they can also refer to other religions' attempt to convert people to their religion or faith.

### **Non-development Activities**

Activities that are not aid and development activities.

### **Partisan Political Activities**

Activities that are political in nature, including lobbying or advocacy activities, that are carried out in support of a particular political party, candidate for public office, or organisation affiliated with a political party or candidate for public office.

### **Partner Organisations**

Organisations implementing aid and development activities funded by, or through, AFAP.



## **Welfare Activities**

Activities which provided direct assistance to individuals because of a need (which is generally an immediate need).

Welfare means assistance to maintain individuals in a particular condition on a long term basis such as institutionalised care programs as provided by orphanages, child sponsorship (i.e. funds given directly to children or their families, and not funds drawn from child sponsorship used for wider development purposes), health or hospital care programs, hospices, and costs for the maintenance of structures for institutionalised care programs (e.g. projects that are largely related to infrastructure such as building of schools or orphanages).

Welfare activities are implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities, and there is no strategy for integration into a broader community development program.

Welfare activities are implemented on an ongoing, long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.

## **7. Confidentiality and Document Control**

7.1 This Policy is available on the AFAP NAS for all staff and board members; and can be provided to volunteers and contractors.

7.2 This Policy is provided to all partner organisations who are implementing aid and development activities funded by, or through, AFAP.

7.3 A statement containing the whole of Clause 3 of this Policy will be placed on the AFAP website. A copy of this Policy may be provided to any person or organisation upon request.

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#### 7.4 Approval and Document Control

**Adopted by the AFAP Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006**

**Revised by CEO in 2009**

**Revised by CEO in August 2014**

**Due for revision in August 2019**