

WELFARE, RELIGION AND PARTISAN POLITICS POLICY

Compliance with this policy is mandatory.

The objective of the Welfare, Religion and Partisan Politics Policy is to provide a framework to ensure that Save the Children Australia's (SC Australia) programs are designed, planned and implemented independent of welfare, religious and political activities.

It encapsulates the full spectrum of services from humanitarian response to development and guides the principles which underpin all aspects of media, communications, policy, advocacy, programming and delivery.

Mandatory Requirements

1. Funds and resources raised by or provided to SC Australia must not fund or support any activity directed to welfare, religion and partisan politics.
2. All SC Australia staff should mainstream this policy into all programs and communicate the policy to all relevant program partners.
3. The policy must be used as a reference for the design, implementation and monitoring of all programs, communications and advocacy.
4. Programs and activities must be guided by the Save the Children Theory of Change, Child Rights Programming Approach, ACFID Code of Conduct, Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere), DFAT Child Protection Policy, DFAT Prevention of Sexual Abuse, Exploitation and Harassment Policy and SC Australia and donor policies.
5. Partners implementing SC Australia programs or using SC Australia funds must not undertake or participate in welfare, religious or political activities on those programs, or with those funds.
6. All programs to be subjected to SC Australia's rigorous appraisal process to ensure quality and accountability for adhering to the policy.

How does SC Australia define welfare, religion and partisan politics?

SC Australia recognises the following definitions¹ and does not support welfare, religious or political activities as defined below.

1. Welfare activities: such as care and maintenance, which aim to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer-term basis.²
2. Religious activities: which support or promote a particular religion, including activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denomination to another.

¹ All definitions are taken from: The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2021, *Australian NGO Cooperation Program Manual*, e-manual, accessed 1 October 2021, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-ngo-cooperation-program-manual>.

² 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. For example, long-term financial assistance (i.e. cash payments) provided to individuals without a clear exit strategy.

3. Political activities: which support a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.³

Please refer to the Welfare, Religion and Partisan Politics Policy Guidelines for more details and specific directions on how to apply this Policy.

Review date	Current version	Comments	Author	Approved by Executive Committee	Approved by BPRC	Review date
Nov 2011	1.0	New Policy	Lanie Stockman, Program Quality	Director Programs	Board	Nov 2013
Nov 2013	2.0	Updates and revisions	Veronica Bell, Head of Program Quality and Effectiveness	Scott Gilbert, Director Programs	BPRC	Nov 2015
Oct 2015	3.0	New Policy Format plus additional mandatory requirements	Stuart Schaefer, Director International Programs	10 Nov 2015	BPRC	Q4 2017
Nov 2017	4.0	Updates and revision	Mat Tinkler, Director of IP and PAD	31 Oct 2017	29/11/17	Q4 2019
Nov 2019	5.0	Updates and revision	Mat Tinkler, Director of Policy and International Programs	12 Nov 2019	27/11/19	Q4 2021
Nov 2021	6.0	Updates and revision	Mat Tinkler, Managing Director International Programs	9 Nov 2021	24/11/21	Q4 2023

³ Examples include: 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 independence or separatist movements; and 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.