



Non-Development Activity - Evangelism, Welfare and Politics Policy

1. Introduction

Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) is committed to ensuring that all development activities are in line with its commitments to rights-based development. In support of this commitment, AOA is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development's (ACFID) Code of Conduct, the ACT Alliance Code of Conduct and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Contractual Agreement, all of which preclude support for evangelical, political or welfare activities.

AOA articulates this requirement with partners during start up discussions, capacity assessment, regular monitoring and through the signing of a partnership agreement. Development assistance is provided on a non-discriminatory basis - participation and support in relief and development programs will occur on an equal basis.

2. Purpose and Scope of the application

- AOA's commitment that development and relief assistance must be provided on the principles of neutrality and impartiality
- Separation between development and non-development activities
- AOA's commitment as a signatory to national and international development activity standards
- AOA does not support non-development activities

2.1 This Non-Development - Evangelism, Welfare and Politics Policy applies to Board members, staff, program development partners, program development contractors and volunteers of AOA. From here on, these groups will be collectively referred to in this policy as 'AOA parties'.

3. International and National Frameworks

The declarations underlying AOA's acknowledgement, respect and implementation of a rights-based approach in an emergency response is guided by the provisions of the following:

- *As a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), AOA adheres to ACFID's Code of Conduct.*
- *DFAT - Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) Accreditation Framework. With full DFAT accreditation, AOA complies with all accreditation criteria.*
- *ACT Alliance - Coalition of churches and faith-based organisations working collaboratively across numerous countries.*

4. Guiding Principles

- AOA funded activities seek to bring full life to all peoples, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability, age, displacement, caste, gender, gender identity, sexuality, sexual orientation, poverty, class and socio-economic status

- AOA promotes tolerance and acceptance of religious beliefs and the practice by partners of non-discrimination against participants in program activities
- AOA funds will not be used to seek to convert people from one religious faith or denomination to another, and/or build up ecclesiastical structures, unless those structures are specifically designed to provide non-denominational development outcomes.
- A reciprocal approach to accountability and transparency with partners, defined within a memorandum of understanding and partnership agreement is maintained
- AOA implements programs that will contribute to the growth of resilient, independent and sustainable communities rather than a state of dependency amongst beneficiaries.
- Development assistance is impartial and neutral, provided on a non-discriminatory basis.

5. Implementation

5.1 Development

5.1.1 Development and Evangelism

- AOA is motivated to alleviate poverty and suffering, as mandated by Jesus' proclamation that He came that all may have life in abundance (Jn 10:10). As an Anglican development agency, AOA enacts this biblical call for fullness of life through the delivery of development and humanitarian assistance to all people, without any conditions attached. Where AOA works with Church partners, these partners may not use AOA funds for church structures or functions, unless these are specifically supporting the development work of the church. As a faith-based organisation, AOA works with in-country partners during project design, monitoring and evaluation to ensure full understanding of and compliance with this policy and approach.

5.1.2 Development and Welfare

- Anglican Overseas Aid makes a distinction between development and welfare activities under its approach to human rights. The primary development model used in AOA funded programs is the strength-based approach (SBA) to community development. The SBA encourages individuals and communities to use their own assets to achieve benefits. Where project activities are directed at vulnerable individuals and groups, it is in the context of building community support structures to develop sustainable ways for the long term care of these people and to give individuals and groups greater control over their own circumstances and management of project activities. Active monitoring of projects ensures the demarcation between welfare and development.

5.1.3 Development and Politics

- AOA makes a distinction between development and political activities, and does not support party political activities or partisanship. This is also true of individual staff, Board members or volunteers, when using AOA's name or resources. AOA believes that development assistance must be provided on a non-discriminatory basis. Political allegiance is not permitted to determine who and how much individuals can participate in AOA supported projects.

5.2 Separation of Development and Humanitarian Activity and Non-Development Activity

5.2.1 Programming

- All AOA project proposals will be vetted by AOA Program Managers to ensure they align with development or humanitarian activity guidelines
- Any projects deemed non-development activities will be negotiated with partners, in the aim of modifying the activities to sit within development activity guidelines
- AOA will not proceed with a project unless it is deemed to be a development or humanitarian activity.

5.2.2 Communications, Advocacy materials and Fundraising

- AOA do not raise funds for non-development activities
- Communication material produced from any party is screened to ascertain whether the material is communicating development, humanitarian or non-development activities
- Fundraising materials strictly contain only development or humanitarian content
- Financial and non-financial reporting systems will be utilised for fundraising development and humanitarian activities

5.2.3 Expenditure reporting

- Annual Reports include a summary of income and expenditure and overall financial health. AOA will make it clear that when referring to financial statements in summary or extract that full financial statements are available on request
- Financial reports will clearly state the amount spent on public fundraising and administration and provide the basis for validating AOA's claims on development expenditure
- AOA will receive and review regular financial statements, expenditure and acquittal independent audits for work with international networks and consortiums

5.2.4 Choice for donors

- Donors will only have the choice to donate to development or humanitarian initiatives

5.2.5 Partners

- Communication with new partners will state AOA's position to not financially support non-development or non-humanitarian activities
- Partnership agreements contain a clause for the use of funds not be used for non-development or humanitarian activities including welfare, evangelism or politics
- Partners must agree to the use of funds for development and humanitarian purposes only

6. Definitions

In this context:

- Development is a discrete dimension of the mission of the church based on the understanding that the spiritual, social and physical cannot be separated in the process of transformation of people and society. This recognises that spiritual factors are an important part of the lives of people in the communities our partners work in, regardless of their religion. AOA Parties are respected for who they are, regardless of their race, gender, religious beliefs, etc. and no one is discriminated against because of these factors.
- Evangelistic activities include those that seek to convert people from one religious faith or denomination to another; and/or build up the ecclesiastical structures, except where those structures are specifically designed to provide relief and/or development assistance.
- Welfare activities are defined as care and maintenance, which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer-term basis. 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, implemented on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.
- Political activities are those designed to convert people from one political persuasion to another, including the support of political parties, political candidates or organisations affiliated with political parties. Political activities can include using funds or resources to; facilitate or support a specific political party, independence or separatist movements; support a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a political party structure. General support for political participation does not fall within this definition, for example civic awareness campaigns or activities that promote the participation of women as political candidates (without promoting specific parties).

7. Review

This policy and related procedures will be reviewed no later than October 2022, by the Chair of the Development Committee of Anglican Overseas Aid, in consultation with the CEO and program staff.

References	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ACT Alliance Code of Conduct2. AOA International Programs Handbook3. Core humanitarian standard4. DFAT ANCP Accreditation Standards5. ACFID Code of Conduct
Appendices	N/A