

Motivation Australia welfare, political and religious activities policy



1. Introduction

Motivation Australia (MA) carries out aid and development activities based on sound development principles to achieve a clearly articulated mission: **to enable people to stay healthy and access rehabilitation and assistive technology from local services through trained personnel.**

MA chooses not to engage in non-aid and development activities such as welfare, political and religious activities.

This policy clearly describes MA's position on welfare, political and religious activities, including how this position is communicated to our personnel, members, funders and partners. This position is also documented in the MA's Association Rules (clause 3.7).

For the purposes of this policy, the following terms are defined as stated. These definitions are consistent with DFAT definitions and are included in the ACFID Code of Conduct, to which Motivation Australia is a signatory:

Aid and development activities:	Activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and address global justice issues via direct engagement through 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.
Welfare:	<p>Care and maintenance, which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a long-term basis. 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 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.</p> <p>Welfare activities are typically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Religious activities:	Promotion of a particular religion, such as activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another. Activities that build up religious structures (including infrastructure, training or organisational activities) are also considered religious activities, unless those structures are specifically designed to provide non-denominational development outcomes.
Political activities	<p>Supporting a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff pursuing party political activities during working hours or when otherwise representing Motivation Australia. • Staff using organisational funds or resources to facilitate or support a specific political party, candidate, or party political organisation in a local, regional or general / national election.

- Staff using organisational funds or resources to facilitate or support independence or separatist movements.
- Staff using organisational funds or resources to facilitate or support a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a political party structure.

The following terms have also been defined for the purposes of this policy:

MA personnel	Personnel includes all employees, consultants, contractors, interns and volunteers. Volunteers include professional volunteers, students or any other person who has entered into a volunteer contract with MA.
MA representatives	Representatives includes all personnel and members of the MA Board of Governors.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide MA and our partners to make a clear separation between aid and development and non-aid and development objectives and activities. This policy addresses our ACFID compliance obligations 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.

3. Policy

- 3.1. MA is first and foremost a development organisation and will work to continue to strengthen our capacity to deliver effective development programmes based on sound development principles.
- 3.2. MA chooses not to engage in welfare, religious or political activities.
- 3.3. MA's programme appraisal process includes a determination that any activities to be carried out under the programme are aid and development activities – and not non-development and/or welfare activities.
- 3.4. MA 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 religion or to support a political party, or to promote a candidate or organisation affiliated to a particular party.
- 3.5. MA's position on welfare, religious or political activities will be clearly communicated to our in-country programme partners and included in contractual agreements (for example Memorandum of Understanding or other Partnership Agreements).
- 3.6. MA monitors and evaluates expenditure of funds provided to our partners in accordance with MA's sub grant policy.
- 3.7. MA's position on welfare, religious or political activities will be clearly stated on our website and promotional material.

4. Responsibility

MA's CEO is responsible for ensuring this Policy is adhered to; and any breaches reported to the Board of Governments.

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5. Related documents

Document no:	Title
POL - 0120	POL Sub Grant Policy

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