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**It starts with equal**



**POLICY ON EVANGELISM,  
WELFARE AND PARTISAN  
POLITICS**

December 2020

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## **1. Purpose of policy**

This policy articulates CARE Australia’s differentiation between its humanitarian and development objectives, and the objectives of evangelism, welfare and partisan politics. The purpose of this policy is to ensure CARE Australia does not engage in the aforementioned activities.

CARE Australia was established in 1987 as a non-sectarian, non-partisan development assistance and humanitarian relief organisation. CARE Australia’s Mission and Focus is to work “around the globe to save lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice. We put women and girls in the center because we know that we cannot overcome poverty until all people have equal rights and opportunities”. In our programs and offices we embrace diversity and oppose discrimination based on sex, race, nationality, ethnicity, class, religion, age, physical ability, caste, or sexual orientation.

CARE Australia adheres to the CARE International Code<sup>1</sup>, which explicitly states that CARE “shall remain independent of any political, religious or other affiliation. Its activities shall be conducted without regard to political or religious considerations”.

CARE Australia is a signatory to the Red Cross Movement and NGO Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief<sup>2</sup>. The Principles which underpin the Code of Conduct reaffirm that aid is driven by the humanitarian imperative, and will be given regardless of race, creed or nationality and will not be used to further political or religious views.

CARE Australia is also a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development’s Code of Conduct<sup>3</sup>. Whilst the Code of Conduct does not specifically reference evangelism, welfare and partisan politics, the values outlined in the Code align with CARE’s way of working, including with integrity, accountability, transparency and respect.

## **2. Scope**

This policy applies to CARE Australia, CARE Australia managed Country Offices, and projects funded through CARE Australia implemented by CARE International (CI) and downstream partners. Throughout this document, where the term ‘CARE Australia and downstream partners’ is used, this includes all the entities mentioned above.

## **3. Policy details**

CARE Australia is committed to the CARE International Code and will not engage in evangelism, partisan politics or the provision of long-term welfare.

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<sup>1</sup> The CARE International Code, June 2013

<sup>2</sup> The Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief

<sup>3</sup> Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct, June 2017

### **Evangelism and Partisan Politics**

CARE Australia is non-sectarian and neither CARE Australia nor its downstream partners will engage in activities intended to promote evangelism, missionary outreach or promote any religious tradition in CARE Australia funded projects or programmes.

CARE Australia is non-partisan and neither CARE Australia nor its downstream partners will engage in or support activities which promote political parties or candidates or particular political philosophies in CARE Australia funded projects or programmes.

#### *Non-Partisan Advocacy:*

CARE Australia is a non-partisan organisation and as such we are neutral. We do not have a position on any political parties anywhere, however we do have positions on issues, we have deep principles that drive our work, and we are not neutral on human rights. These are issues and principles we advocate for consistently, regardless of which political parties come and go.<sup>4</sup>

### **Welfare**

CARE Australia and downstream partners' programs emphasise emergency relief after disasters and activities to promote sustainable development, and support the efforts of vulnerable and marginalized people to lift themselves out of poverty.

However, CARE Australia is not a provider of traditional, long-term welfare activities which are defined by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as:

Care and maintenance, other than in refugee and emergency situations, which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer-term basis. Substantial and broad impact on social and economic conditions in the community is not normally expected from welfare programs. Welfare is typically provided on an individual or family basis including home-based and institutional care programs, such as those provided by orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospices, support to the disabled, and the provision of food for destitutes.

CARE Australia will not engage in partnerships that have the objective of providing long-term welfare activities.

### **CARE Australia's Program Framework**

Recognising that humanitarian and development interventions do not happen in isolation from the general conditions of the community, region or nation in which they are undertaken, CARE Australia aims to inform changes in practices and policies of local, regional and national authorities through drawing on direct field based learning.

## **4. Related Policies and Procedures**

CARE Australia Values and Code of Conduct, November 2019:

<https://www.care.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CARE-Australia-Code-of-Conduct-2019.pdf>

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<sup>4</sup> CARE Australia Advocacy Principles, July 2016  
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## 5. Supporting documents and references

5.1 The CARE International Code, June 2013

5.2 ACFID Code of Conduct (Compliance Principle B.1.5- page 10):

*CARE Australia is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.*

5.3 The Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief (page 3&4):

*CARE Australia is a signatory to the Red Cross Code of Conduct which states that “aid will not be used to further a political or religious standpoint; we shall endeavour not to act as instruments of government foreign policy; and relief aid must strive to reduce further vulnerabilities to disaster as well as meeting basic needs”.*

5.4 Compliance with this policy is also a requirement of the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). DFAT does not approve funding of welfare, religious, or partisan political activities<sup>5</sup>, and as such, CARE Australia is committed to aligning with this policy.

## 6. Policy owner

David Sims, Director of International Programs and Operations  
[david.sims@care.org.au](mailto:david.sims@care.org.au)

## 7. Implementation and communications

This policy will be available to all CARE Australia staff through shared electronic filing systems, and will be available to the public and other stakeholders via CARE Australia’s website. It will be proactively shared with CARE Australia’s downstream partners to ensure compliance when implementing CARE Australia funded activities.

CARE Australia will keep this policy under review, with reports provided to CARE Australia’s Senior Management Team and Board as needed.

CARE Australia will have responsibility for periodic monitoring and review of relevant actions under the policy. They will also collaborate with CI Country Offices in review and revision of the policy as needed.

## 8. Policy details

Policy drafted on 23rd December, 2020 (Version 1.1). To be reviewed five years after approval of the policy, or earlier if required.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/ancp-manual.pdf> pages 13,14 &15  
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