



RANZCO

The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Ophthalmologists

Policy on Welfare, Evangelism & Partisan Political Activities in International Development Projects

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1. Definitions

Definitions used by RANZCO are based on, and compliant with, those used by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade¹ and the New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme².

Welfare

Welfare activities are defined by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as those which provide direct assistance to individuals, because of a need. These generally seek to address immediate needs rather than the root causes of those needs.

Welfare activities are often similar to gifts. They are provided for or on behalf of beneficiaries, without a requirement for beneficiary participation in the activity or for the activity to be sustainable.

Welfare is also implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities. Welfare programs include no strategy for integration into broader community development programs and are implemented on either a one-off 'gift' basis or on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.

Evangelism

Evangelism (also called proselytism and missionary work) is the practice of attempting to convert people from their current religion or faith to another.

Evangelistic activities may attempt to influence members of a particular group, based on belief and/or practice (eg sexual conduct), by withholding unrelated benefit (eg health care) until modification of belief and/or behavior occurs.

Although originally applied to activities encouraging conversion to Christianity, it now describes conversion activities by any religion or faith.

Partisan Political Activities

Partisan political activities include political, lobbying and advocacy activities carried out on behalf of, or in aid of, a particular political party or cause.

2. Policy

RANZCO undertakes and supports projects and activities that aim for sustainable development of eye care and communities as a whole.

RANZCO does not engage in, support or condone any act of welfare that substitutes for or

hinders the implementation of well-planned sustainable development projects.

RANZCO is a secular organization that is not aligned with any political party. It does not engage in evangelism and/or partisan political activities.

RANZCO does not support or condone evangelism and/or partisan political activities in international development, whether by its staff, volunteers, Fellows, project partners or other unrelated individuals or organisations.

3. Implementation

RANZCO is an independent organization that works to improve eye care and health in Australia, New Zealand and Asia Pacific Region through exceptional training, education, research and advocacy. It partners with other organisations that have similar objectives and work toward the same or related outcomes for local communities.

RANZCO partners and works with governments and other in-country stakeholders to ensure its activities are aligned with the national plans of the country.

During initial discussions with potential partners, RANZCO shares its values and objectives, and requests these from the other party. It is emphasized that welfare, evangelism and partisan political activities cannot be part of projects that RANZCO undertakes or supports. This position is explicitly stated in any Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement that may result from discussions and governs any collaboration.

4. Reference

1. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2014) *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability* Canberra: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Available at: <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/australian-aid-development-policy.pdf> (Accessed: 07 June 2016).
2. New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme (2015) *New Zealand Aid Programme Strategic Plan 2015 - 19*. Available at: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/securedfiles/Aid-Prog-docs/New-Zealand-Aid-Programme-Strategic-Plan-2015-19.pdf> (Accessed: 2 June 2016).

5. Record of amendments to this document

Page	Details of Amendment	Date amended
Entire document	Created	2011
Entire document	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed• Minor changes throughout	07/2016