

# OPS-004 Non-Development Activity Policy

**Authorised by:** CEO  
**Applies to:** All PWDA Directors, staff and volunteers  
**Effective from:** 26/10/2023  
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**Policy owner:** Deputy CEO

## Contents

Policy statement.....	2
Guiding principles.....	3
Definitions .....	4
Definition of Non-Development Activities .....	4
Accountabilities .....	5
Procedure .....	6
Related policies, procedures, and forms .....	6

## Policy statement

The purpose of this policy is to guide PWDA and our partners to make a clear separation between aid and development and non-aid 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.

This policy addresses compliance obligations relating to Principle B.1.5 of the ACFID Code of Conduct.

PWDA is a non-development, national disability rights and advocacy organisation. Our primary membership is made up of people with disability and organisations primarily constituted by people with disability. We also have a large associate membership of other individuals and organisations committed to the disability rights movement.

Founded in 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons, People with Disability Australia Ltd. seeks to provide people with disability with a voice of our own. We have a cross-disability focus representing the interest of people with all kinds of disability. We are a non-profit, non-government organisation.

In some instances, PWDA partners with local faith-based organisations on the basis that their delivery is without evangelizing or making participation conditional on conversion or adherence to a particular religious denomination. PWDA also partners with advocacy organisations from time to time on the basis that their activities are not in support of a political party or candidate.

PWDA is an apolitical, non-denominational organisation and does not engage in or support any evangelical activities and is not linked to any political party.

In some instances, PWDA may partner with local faith-based organisations on the basis that their delivery is without evangelizing or making participation conditional on conversion or adherence to a particular religious denomination. PWDA also partners with advocacy organisations from time to time on the basis that their activities are not in support of a political party or candidate.

PWDA operates within the human rights framework and provides advice and information; individual, group and systemic advocacy; training and education; and a representative voice of people with disability in New South Wales, nationally and internationally.

PWDA addresses the discrimination, marginalisation, poverty and human rights abuses that people with disability experience. PWDA works with all people with disability, with a focus on people with disability who are in vulnerable and marginalised situations.

PWDA's strategic aims are to:

- educate and empower people with disability and the wider community on social justice issues
- advocate to promote and protect the legal, service user and human rights of individuals and groups of people with disability to ensure their needs are met
- promote innovation and systemic change in society that delivers accessibility, social justice and inclusion for people with disability in all aspects of community life
- support the disability rights and advocacy sector to be an effective force for social change locally, nationally and internationally
- deliver high quality projects and programs in line with our vision and values.

PWDA's activities are funded primarily by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments for specific activities and projects within Australia, including advocacy for disability inclusive development within Australia's aid program.

## **Guiding principles**

PWDA supports and is committed to abiding by the following principles to ensure:

- accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, collaborative partners, donors and the public
- that funds raised for aid and development purposes are not used to exploit people and communities who are vulnerable and do not place any conditions or obligations on recipients in terms of non-development, religious or political outcomes that would affect their access to services being offered.

Where there are components of partner programs which involve evangelical or partisan political activities, these will be promoted and accounted for separately.

## Definitions

PWDA is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development are used only for those purposes.

PWDA utilizes the ACIFD definition of Aid and Development Activities which is:

“Aid and development refer to the 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”.

The concept of aid and development activities can be distinguished by the following principles:

- a. strengths based approaches which encourage people and communities to create solutions for themselves
- b. processes that seek to address the causes of poverty
- c. processes that seek to empower rights holders to claim their rights and ensure duty bearers exercise their duties
- d. supporting systems and structures which enable people to move out of poverty, emergency relief, disaster recovery and meeting the immediate needs of refugees
- e. and internally displaced peoples.

## Definition of Non-Development Activities

PWDA is a non-denominational organisation and does not provide support for evangelical activities and partisan political activities.

Partisan political activities are those that are associated with facilitating or supporting specific political activities to gain power. This does not include

advocacy which is aimed at persuading and influencing decision makers and opinion leaders, and is not aimed at promoting partisan political objectives

Evangelical activities are those activities that promote a particular religious adherence or are undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another.

For the purposes of making a distinction between aid and development and non-aid development activities as required by the ACFID Code of Conduct, any activity whose objectives include the promotion of religious adherence will be considered as a non-aid and development activity and will be managed and accounted for separately.

## **Accountabilities**

This policy is intended to apply to all PWDA activities. This policy is applicable to all PWDA employees and volunteers. The policy also extends to PWDA partners and associated implementing organisations.

This policy provides a framework for PWDA compliance with principle B.1.5 of the ACFID Code of Conduct. This principle outlines four obligations for signatories to the ACFID Code of Conduct:

1. Signatory organisations will have a clear separation between aid and development and non-aid and development objectives and activities based on the definitions of aid and development and non-aid and development.
2. This separation will be clear in all fundraising, programs and other activities, in public and communications and in all reporting including annual reports.
3. Any fundraising solicitations that include references to both aid and development and non-development activities will provide donors with the choice of contributing to aid and development activity only.
4. Signatory organisations will ensure that any such separation in fundraising, programs and other activities, in public communications and in reporting, extends to partner and implementing organisations and is documented.

For all our funding, PWDA must abide by funding guidelines and reporting requirements and demonstrate that we have achieved the stipulated outcomes for the activity

## Procedure

PWDA ensures that PWDA and our partners can differentiate between development and non-development activity and communicate this appropriately to stakeholders, donors and the public.

1. PWDA will appraise all project proposals to determine whether they include non-aid and development components.
2. Appraisers will record any issues, which must then be followed up to ensure that the policy requirements are satisfied before the project is approved.
3. Partner capacity assessment processes require PWDA to identify whether the partner is engaged in non-development activities, and if so, how it is able to manage and account for.

In-country project monitoring will include, where relevant, monitoring of the separation of non-development activities from aid and development activities.

## Related documents

### Guides

ACFID Code of Conduct <https://acfid.asn.au>

ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance: Definitions <https://acfid.asn.au>