

<h2>AVI Proselytism, Partisan Politics and Terrorism Policy</h2>	Effective date	December 2020
	Next review date	December 2021
	Sponsor	CEO
	Board committee	FARM
Level / Class Corporate Organisation	Approval / authorisation	Board

1. REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision Number	Change(s)	Reference Section(s)
20 Feb 2008	0	New policy	
Aug 2018	1	Review and removal of Child Protection (now contained in its own policy) and Welfare (no longer part of AVI operations) sections, and to reflect the requirements in AVP contract. References and affiliated policies updated.	
Dec 2020	1.1	Statements on separation of development and non development activities added	5.1, 5.2

2. PURPOSE

This policy aims to clarify AVI's position with respect to proselytism, partisan politics and terrorism.

3. SCOPE / PERSONS AFFECTED

The policy applies to all AVI operations and activities and impacts the AVI Board, Executive Team, all other employees (including contractors), volunteers, deployees and funding and development partners.

As such, all directors, employees, contractors, volunteers, deployees and partners should be aware of this policy.

Appropriate consultation (tick for 'yes', otherwise leave blank)

4. PRINCIPLES

AVI is an independent, secular, not-for-profit, development organisation whose purpose is:

AVI works for a peaceful, sustainable and just world by partnering with people to achieve the positive change and development goals they seek.

PROSELYTISM, PARTISAN POLITICS

In doing so, we are committed to:

- *Locally owned and led change*
- *Inspiring, engaging and connecting people around the world*
- *Strengthening capacity through sharing expertise and knowledge*
- *Building relationships of mutual respect and trust*
- *Evidence based practice and outcomes reporting*
- *Facilitating, not driving, the development process*
- *A strength-based, human rights, culturally appropriate and inclusive approach*
- *Volunteering for development*
- *2030 agenda*

AVI defines its work as people-centred development or, more specifically, international development volunteering. It works with individuals, organisations and communities in response to locally identified priorities.

At the heart of our approach to development volunteering is:

- a commitment to instigating and contributing to processes of long-term, culturally appropriate, respectful and effective capacity development, through establishing and maintaining ethical, reciprocal and respectful relationships with the communities, organisations and others who have invited AVI to enter into a partnership;
- the exchange of skills and knowledge, particularly concerning appropriate development, good governance and civil society, but also on more personal and philosophical levels between volunteers, as representatives of the Australian community, and the people of volunteer-receiving countries;
- the integration of the rich cross-cultural experiences and understandings gained by volunteers into the culture and life of Australian communities upon their return, thus contributing to positive global transformation.

All AVI's operations and activities are guided by its key principles of equity and social justice, integrity, diversity, partnership and respect for human rights.

AVI is also a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. Our commitment to the Code further obliges us to behave in certain ways and govern our actions.

5. POLICY

5.1 Proselytising Activities

AVI will uphold the right of an individual to choose and practice their faith.

AVI is non-sectarian and will not implement or fund program activities that are religious in nature and are designed to persuade people to join a particular religious faith.

In the cases where we partner with a religious institution or religiously affiliated groups in which we send funds, AVI will require that religious activities undertaken by the group be clearly differentiated from the activities funded by AVI. This will include the need for separation in programming, expenditure reporting, fundraising, advocacy campaigns, communications, choice for donors and partners. This need for separation will be addressed through AVI's due diligence checks and processes with partner organisations clearly setting out AVI's requirements and expectations.

5.2 Partisan Political Activities

AVI will uphold the right of an individual to participate in political activities.

AVI is non-partisan and will not implement or fund program activities that further a particular political adherence, endorse any party, promote a candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party or those that involve partisanship.

AVI also recognises that political processes are an important part of the development process. Accordingly, AVI seeks to promote and may advocate for:

- good governance
- political participation by communities with whom we work
- civic and political awareness campaigns
- policies and practices of governments and political parties which benefit poor and marginalised men and women and uphold basic human rights for all.

In this regard, AVI may partner with politically affiliated groups, organisations and institutions, in Australia or overseas, to achieve these non-partisan objectives. In the case that AVI does partner with a political institution or politically affiliated groups in which funds are sent, AVI will require that any such political activities undertaken by the group be clearly differentiated from the activities funded by AVI. This will include the need for separation in programming, expenditure reporting, fundraising, advocacy campaigns, communications and choice for donors and partners. This need for separation will be addressed through AVI's due diligence checks and processes with partner organisations clearly setting out AVI's requirements and expectations'.

5.3 Terrorism-Related Activities

AVI repudiates terrorism in all its forms, regardless of its underlying rationale. It is strongly regarded as counter-productive in the light of AVI's vision, values and development approach.

Accordingly, AVI shall comply with its legal requirements to *not*:

- intentionally or recklessly provide funds to or receive funds from a terrorist organisation
provide support to a terrorist organisation
- finance terrorism
- directly or indirectly make any asset available to a proscribed (terrorist) entity.

In program and project delivery and working with partners and other parties, AVI will ensure that funds provided under the AVP Contract (whether through a subcontract or not), or in any other of its activities, do not provide direct or indirect support or resources to:

- (a) organisations and/or individuals associated with terrorism, and
- (b) organisations and individuals for whom Australia has imposed sanctions under: the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945* (Cth) and regulations made under that Act; the *Autonomous Sanctions Act 2011* (Cth) and regulations made under that Act or the World Bank List or a Relevant List.

Thus, AVI shall aim to:

- know the persons or organisations that are being directly assisted via its programs and projects
- ensure that people or organisations being directly assisted are not listed on the following lists, including but not limited to, the National Security Australia Listing of Terrorist Organisations (www.nationalsecurity.gov.au) or Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade List of Proscribed Persons and Entities <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/sanctions/Pages/consolidated-list.aspx/> before assistance is provided
- make certain that directly funded persons or organisations are aware of and obliged to comply with the above legal requirements, and that they in turn are obliged to ensure that their distribution of the funds or support is made on the same basis
- ensure no program and project activities, including those carried out by in-country implementing partners, are subject to corrupt practices, particularly the bribery of public and foreign officials ☒ include appropriate clauses in MOUs and partnership agreements for acknowledging the Australian Government's policy and laws of not providing direct or indirect support or resources to organisations and individuals associated with terrorism.

All concerns and suspicions relating to the diversion of public or private funds, including DFAT funds, to terrorists should be provided to:

- The National Security Hotline – 1800 123 400
- DFAT Sanctions Section – sanctions@dfat.gov.au
- Transnational Crime Section – transnational.crime@dfat.gov.au

6. DEFINITIONS

Development

Development seeks to improve the conditions of communities in a sustainable way. It is based on working with communities, rather than on behalf of communities. Development is a process where a community of people work together to break the cycle of poverty and dependence so that their fundamental needs are met and the quality of their lives is enhanced. Development activities seek to address the root causes of the need identified and in doing so, make a contribution to reducing that need in the long term.

7. RESPONSIBILITIES

AVI Board:

Hold CEO accountable to this policy.

CEO and Executive Team:

Ensure that AVI's position with respect to proselytism, partisan politics, and terrorism is clear and that AVI's programs and projects, advocacy, campaigns and other activities are not inadvertently funding or supporting proselytising, partisan political, terrorism-related, child exploitation or welfare activities.

Senior Managers and Team Leaders:

- Promote awareness and understanding of the policy to AVI employees, volunteers, deployees, partners and allies;
- Ensure that employees are held accountable to the policy;
- Ensure that employees have sufficient knowledge, skills and resources to support policy implementation; and
- Promote the use of program management systems like the appraisal process, regular monitoring, partner agreements, and regular partner reporting to ensure that activities along religious, partisan political or terrorist lines are not inadvertently included in AVI's programs.

8. PROCEDURES / GUIDELINES (OPTIONAL FOR POLICY DOCUMENTS)

Insert procedural steps and/or flow chart, together with timing and personnel responsible

9. RELATED POLICIES

This policy is to be read in conjunction with AVI's *Framework for International Volunteering and Development*.

Other relevant policies include:

- AVI Enterprise Agreement 2014
- AVI Staff Code of Conduct
- AVI Board Code of Conduct
- AVI Child Protection Policy
- AVI Volunteer Code of Conduct, contained in *Guidebook for Australian Volunteers*.
- AVI Fraud and Corruption Policy
- AVI Due Diligence Processes

10. REFERENCES

- ACFID Code of Conduct
 - Commitment 7.3.2 – Member development initiatives consistently demonstrate the separation of development and non development activities
 - Commitment 8.2 – We ensure that funds and resources entrusted to us are properly controlled and managed
- ACFID Practice note: Checklist for Protection Against the Risk of Terrorism Financing
http://www.acnc.gov.au/ACNC/Manage/Protect/Checklist_protect_against_the_risk_of_terrorism_financing/ACNC/Edu/ChecklistTF/
- ACNC Characteristics of a Public Benevolent Institution: Commissioner's Interpretation Statement: Public Benevolent Institutions 2016

- Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme: Guidelines for Obtaining Tax Deductibility <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/oagds-guidelines.pdf/>
- DFAT ANCP Manual <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/ancp-manual.pdf> relevantly 4.2: Political, Religious or Welfare Activities; 5.2: Safeguarding Against Terrorism Financing
- Criminal Code Act 1995 ('the Criminal Code') - Part 5.3
- Charter of United Nations Act 1945 ('the UN Charter Act') - Part 4
- <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/counter-terrorism/Pages/terrorism-financingrisk-management-statement.aspx/>

11. EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

AVI will appraise all project activities to determine whether they include non-aid and development components. AVI's due diligence processes will identify whether a partner is engaged in non-development activities (or those activities promoting a political party or a religious adherence) and if so, how we will manage and account for them separately to aid and development activities.