



1. Preamble

The Leprosy Mission Australia (TLMA) is an organisation which, as part of The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship, focuses on the needs of people who have been affected by leprosy. In adopting a whole person approach to people affected by leprosy, TLMA has moved from a medical model of care to a more inclusive, holistic program of rehabilitation and community development; recognising that it is also essential to address the causes and consequences of leprosy. These consequences include the social implications of the disease and the participatory barriers faced by an individual with a disability.

TLMA is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development, which in addition to ANCP, guide our actions in this area. According to the ACFID Code of Conduct, non-development activity includes activity undertaken to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a particular party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.

2. Development and Welfare

As defined in the ANCP 2017 Manual:

Welfare means assistance to maintain individuals in a particular condition on a longer- term basis....These include programs such as institutionalised care as provided by orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospices and the provision of food for those who are destitute.

Welfare project examples that the ANCP do not approve, include where:

- *Welfare is implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities.*
- *Welfare has no strategy for integration into a broader, community development program.*
- *Welfare is provided on an individual or family basis, rather than on a community basis, and is unconnected to emergency needs*
- *Welfare activities are implemented on an ongoing, long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.*

TLMA, through its projects, seeks to meet the needs of people with disabilities and marginalised groups through integrated and sustainable development programs, focusing on rehabilitation and community development which address the attitudinal, environmental, and social needs of those with whom we work. Because of the barriers faced by people with disabilities, it is recognised that direct assistance may in some circumstances be required, such as short term support for school fees, books, uniforms, scholarships to school children, or individual support to microcredit recipients through provision of food until their business is generating income. Rehabilitation of people with disabilities may also require providing mobility aids to overcome environmental barriers, enabling the person to lead a more fulfilled, inclusive life in their community. Where development funds are used for these activities, they are always in the context of an ongoing, sustainable development program that seeks to overcome these barriers. These direct assistance activities are not considered “welfare,” as they ensure participation and commitment of communities to longer term, integrated sustainable community development and the protection of the rights and interests for people with disabilities and marginalised groups.

Projects are appraised for any specific welfare activities, as defined by the ANCP guidelines¹. Projects, activities, and budget line items identified as welfare are supported by TLMA funds only and not included in RDE calculations.

3. Development and Evangelism

As defined in the ANCP 2017 Manual:

Religious activities are defined as supporting or promoting a particular religion, including activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denomination to another. Activities that build up religious structures (including infrastructure, training or organisational activities) are also ineligible for ANCP funding, unless those structures are specifically designed to provide non-denominational development outcomes.

TLMA is a faith-based organisation whose work and actions are underpinned by a Bible based belief system. As such, we seek to live out our Christian beliefs through our compassion and care, seeking to offer health, healing, and spiritual wholeness to people affected by leprosy and disability, irrespective of race, culture, gender, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, birth, or other status. TLMA values all people as created in the image of God, with a God-given right to dignity and a fulfilled life.

TLMA (like DFAT and other institutional donors) recognises the value of partnering with faith based organisations within developing communities, where a faith based worldview is predominant and impacts many aspects of community life. TLMA recognises that working with faith based organisations provides opportunities to engage with existing grassroots institutions at the heart of community life, as well as opportunity to have a large geographical reach, and significant influence among community leadership, families and individuals.

TLMA may work with religious organisations, irrespective of their beliefs to raise awareness and educate the community about leprosy and disability. This would be done as part of a wider development program in that community and may involve some training on leprosy and disability. This assists in overcoming the barriers of fear and stigma that are associated with leprosy and disability, and promotes inclusion and acceptance into community activities and life.

While some Christian activities, for example, devotions for staff, retreat days, pastoral care for those in our hospitals, and counselling, are undertaken in our project work, they are done as an integral part of a faith-based organisation. Staff are under no compulsion to attend such activities. Appraisal of project activities is undertaken, and where specific relevant activities are outlined in project budgets (such as retreat days for staff), these items must be funded by TLMA funds and not included in RDE calculations.

4. Development and Partisan Politics

As defined in the ANCP 2017 Manual:

Political activities are defined as supporting a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party. Examples include: NGO staff being involved in party political activities; using funds or resources to facilitate or support a specific political party, candidate, or party political organisation in a local, regional or general / national election; using funds or resources to facilitate or support independence or separatist movements; using funds or resources to facilitate or support a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a political party structure.

¹ DFAT- Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) Manual, available from <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/anncp-manual.pdf>

TLMA does not become involved in or fund any partisan political activities in its projects.

However, TLMA recognises that political processes are an important aspect of the development process. Therefore, TLMA seeks, where possible, to work with government bodies and agencies, irrespective of any political affiliation, to promote the cause of the disabled and marginalised. In many projects, TLMA works in participation with government staff, undertaking training programs and supervising the leprosy and disability work undertaken by them. However, this does not involve support for or promotion of a particular party or candidate.

In addition, TLMA upholds the rights of individuals to participate in political activities. TLMA also recognises that staff and volunteers can participate fully and constructively in political activities provided they are able to maintain a clear distinction between participating in such an activity and their work with TLMA. This participation cannot be deemed to threaten the security and reputation of the staff/volunteer involved or TLMA.

5. Compliance

Partners implementing DFAT-funded projects sign a Funding Agreement, and included in this agreement is an agreement to:

...ensure that any government (DFAT) funds are not used for evangelistic, partisan political or welfare activities, in keeping with TLMA's obligation to the Australian Government.

Partners are also required to have a policy which reflects the obligations outlined in this TLMA Policy. Partners' policies are reviewed during in-country visits.

In Australia, where TLMA fundraising programs are designed to benefit development and non-development activities, TLMA provides a choice where donors may contribute to either activity. This is as per TLMA's Public Engagement Policy.

As a signatory to ACFID, TLMA will comply with ACFID's Code of Conduct (revised December 2016), which stipulates that development initiatives will consistently show evidence of the separation of development and non-development activities. This will occur in programming, expenditure reporting, fundraising, advocacy campaigns and communications where donors can choose to contribute to either activity, and partners are aware of and comply with standards for non-development activity.

6. Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed in 5 years.

Revision History

Version	Date	Author	Summary
3.1	24/01/2017	TLMA IPS	Revision history added. Policy revised with updates from ANCP Manual 2016 and updated ACFID code compliance requirements 2016. Changes tracked for IPC review.
3.2	26/05/2017	TLMA IPS	Policy integrated with IPC suggested comments following IPC meeting 03.04.17, and updated ANCP Manual April 2017.

Document Approval History

Version	Date	Approved by
1.0	11/08/2008	TLMA Board
2.0	17/10/2011	TLMA Board
3.0	05/05/2014	TLMA Board
3.2	26/06/2017	TLMA Board