

Interplast Australia & New Zealand

Development, Proselytisation, Partisan Politics and Welfare Policy

Policy Status:
Approved

Initial CEO Endorsement: 01 April 2019
Board Approval Date: 14 November 2023
Last Review Date: 01 October 2023
Future Review Date: November 2025
Frequency of Review: 2 Years
Policy Owner: Director – International Programs

Revisions to Policy

Significant Changes	Endorsed by CEO	Approved by Interplast Board
Initial creation	2013	2013
Update to template, updating references to ACFID code, definitions, aligning to new strategy & other policy areas	29 October 2023	14 November 2023

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Section 1: Purpose

This purpose of the Development, Proselytisation, Partisan Politics and Welfare (DPPPW) Policy is to outline Interplast Australia & New Zealand's (Interplast's) commitment to ensuring that Interplast operates under a development framework which is consistent with the objectives of the Australian Aid Program and the ACFID Code of Conduct.

In particular, Interplast understands and ensures that all development designated funding may only be utilised for activities that contribute towards sustainable development outcomes, and will not be used for the purpose of promoting or supporting:

- Welfare activities
- Religious teaching or proselytisation; or
- Partisan politics.

Definitions of these terms can be found in Section 7.

This policy informs how Interplast designs and allocates funding to its international program activity, and how Interplast ensures clear communication with its overseas partners, personnel and supporters regarding the use of funds for non-development activities.

Section 2: Scope

The DPPPW Policy applies to all Interplast personnel and observers accompanying any Interplast activity.

This policy is applicable to relevant local partners in the countries in which Interplast works and is referenced in all documented partnership agreements, in relation to their involvement in the design, delivery of and funding allocation to Interplast's programs.

All Interplast personnel and observers, are accountable for understanding and adhering to this policy at all times.

Section 3: Policy Statement

Interplast is first and foremost a development organisation and will work to continue to strengthen our capacity to deliver effective development programs based on sound development principles. Our values reinforce our commitment to work in a manner that is "independent of any political or religious affiliations".

Interplast is committed to the development of sustainable health systems: While stand-alone, welfare or limited focus service delivery programs are not Interplast's preferred mode of operation, it does recognise that some partner organisations require service delivery as an entry point to the longer-term process of capacity building. Support for direct service delivery

assistance activities are strategically phased out as in-country partners progressively strengthen their capacity along the relief-recovery-development continuum.

Section 4: Policy

Interplast chooses not to engage in evangelical activities and adopts a non-partisan political approach at all times in all aspects of its work.

Interplast works to build capacity, confidence and optimise sustainability in all our activities. The degree of capacity building and long-term sustainability will vary from activity to activity depending upon the specific strengths, capacities and resources available within that health system and/or community.

Interplast does not discriminate on the basis of people's religious or political beliefs and works with people and provides services for all faiths, political world views and backgrounds.

Interplast will use funds only for the purposes for which they are intended. Given the humanitarian imperative, there are occasions where Interplast may respond from a service orientated approach in certain situations, but it does so only with funds specifically designated for that purpose.

Interplast will ensure its proposed activities do not include evangelical, partisan politics or welfare activities through its project pre-appraisal process.

Interplast will check that all prospective implementing partners do not have an evangelical, partisan politics or welfare orientation when participating in Interplast-supported program activities, through its partnership appraisal processes, conducted with all prospective partners. (If the partner does engage in evangelism, partisan politics or welfare activities in other areas of its work, Interplast ensures there is a clear, documented separation of development and non-development activities - in line with the standards outlined in the ACFID Code of Conduct).

Interplast's position on welfare, evangelical and partisan political activities will be clearly communicated to our in-country program partners and included in contractual agreements (a clause is written into all Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and other formal Partnership Agreements with relevant partners).

Interplast will monitor compliance with the principles outlined in this policy, through its monitoring and evaluation processes, including program reporting and monitoring visits.

Interplast's position on welfare, evangelical and partisan political activities will be clearly stated on our website and promotional material.

Interplast will ensure its fundraising and communications activities accurately portray its country program activities in a way that complies with the principles outlined in this policy.

Interplast will not discriminate against prospective and existing employees, consultants and/or Directors on the basis of religious or political beliefs and affiliations.

Interplast will not discriminate against prospective and existing Interplast volunteers, partner organisations, observers accompanying an Interplast activity and patients seen and/or treated on Interplast activities.

Interplast will ensure that where an employee, volunteer or Director's affiliation with a political party or organisation may affect their work and/or create a potential conflict of interest, they understand it is their responsibility to raise this matter promptly with Interplast management or with the Board for discussion and decision. This commitment is included in Interplast's employee, Board and Committee codes of conduct, relevant policies and program activity participant protocol & observer guidelines.

Section 5: Monitoring and Review of this Policy

This policy will be monitored and reviewed at intervals as indicated in this policy and following the process outlined in Interplast's Policy Framework.

The Chief Executive Officer is ultimately accountable to the Board for managing and maintaining this policy. The Board is responsible for adopting this policy.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

The Director – International Programs is accountable to the Chief Executive Officer for ensuring compliance with, and currency of this policy, and ensuring that all supporting procedures are updated and incorporated into the International Programs Manual as required.

Where compliance issues are identified, they will be addressed promptly. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for taking any recommended amendments to this policy to the Interplast Board for its approval.

Section 6: Related Documents and Legislation

As a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, Interplast is committed to having its funds or any other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development, and not to be used to promote a particular religious adherence, to support a particular political party or promote an individual or organisation affiliated to a particular party, nor to undertake welfare activities. (*Quality Principle 7, Commitment 7.3.2*)

As a DFAT-accredited NGO, Interplast must ensure that it can differentiate between development and non-development activities, and that where implementing partners undertake non-development activities, that they understand the difference and separate management and funding of development and non-development activities. (Accreditation Criteria B1.3)

Name of document/legislation	Location/hyperlink
ACFID Quality Principle 7, Commitment 7.3.2	Commitment 7.3 - ACFID
DFAT Accreditation Criteria B1.3	dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/accreditation-guidance-manual-final.pdf

Section 7: Definitions

Word / Phrase	Definition
Personnel	<p>Personnel includes all employees, consultants, volunteers, Board Directors, Committee members, Working Group members and Ambassadors that are engaged by Interplast to perform the work of Interplast.</p> <p>Volunteers include both professional (e.g. administrative roles) and medical volunteers (e.g. surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses or allied therapists), students, interns, or any other person who has entered into a volunteer arrangement or agreement with Interplast.</p>
Observer	<p>Observers are individuals accompanying an Interplast program, delivered by volunteers in a partner country (e.g. representing a donor organisation or students on an observational placement). Observers do not have a clinical role but may assist the clinical team by completing tasks related to program delivery.</p>
Partner	<p>Partner includes organisations that work with Interplast to implement a joint project with mutually agreed outcomes, and/or with whom Interplast has a signed partnership agreement and/or memorandum of understanding.</p> <p>Partner organisations may or may not be recipients of funds through Interplast.</p>
Beneficiary	<p>Beneficiary 1) a patient receiving treatment through an Interplast activity (this may include a consult only, surgery, allied health treatment or other clinical care, and could be provided by an Interplast volunteer, or a local partner clinician during an Interplast activity), or 2) local partner personnel participating in training delivered by Interplast.</p>

Stakeholder	Stakeholders include all personnel, observers, partners, beneficiaries and supporters, community members in the country where we work, funders, international development peers and organisations, or any other individuals or organisations that connect with Interplast.
Evangelism	Activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another.
Partisan Politics	Activities that align with a political party and are undertaken with the intention of persuading people to support a particular political party or doctrine.
Proselytisation	The attempt of any religion or religious individuals to convert people to their beliefs, or any attempt to convert people to a different point of view, religious or not.
Welfare	Activities that are undertaken but do not contribute to sustainable development outcomes. Welfare activities often have a narrow focus on specific assistance to individuals, families and communities leading to an increasing dependence on the assistance given. Where activities deliver specific services within a context of increasing local/national capacity and enabling individuals, families and communities to engage more fully and more effectively in the development process, they are not considered as welfare activities.