

# Pacific Conference of Churches

Executive Committee Approved 25 April 2022

## ***1.0 Explicit Statements regarding the PCC Programmes' Portfolio and welfare, religious witness and partisan political activity.***

PCC is committed to delivering development assistance on a non-discriminatory basis.

PCC will clearly distinguish between its development work and its non-development activities, separating funding and clearly identifying each activity's Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) eligibility. Reporting to management and the Finance and General Business Committee will clearly distinguish between PCC's various programmes.

PCC will ensure that all its representatives, including staff and volunteers, are aware of and agree to comply with this distinction. PCC will also ensure that its promotion and education activities reflect this distinction.

### ***1.1 Commitment on Welfare***

PCC will not fund or support welfare activities using development funding. PCC accepts the following description of what constitutes welfare:

“...care and maintenance, which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer- term basis. Substantial and broad impact on social and economic conditions in the community is not normally expected from welfare programs. Welfare may be provided to an individual or family basis including home-based and institutional care programs, such as those provided by orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospices and the provision of food for those who are destitute. Exceptions to this may include situations where home-based care leads to inclusion in development and sustainable long-term change. Welfare projects are typically:

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

PCC clearly distinguishes between community development and welfare. The appraisal stage of programs and projects ensures that all activities reflect this distinction.

### ***1.2 Commitment on Religious Activities***

PCC's approach to community development recognises that a community's spiritual dimension is an important aspect of its general wellbeing and cannot be ignored in the process

## Pacific Conference of Churches

of transformation. PCC, however, does not impose nor permit its partners to impose religious or spiritual beliefs (or values) as a condition of participation in any of the Relief and Development projects it supports.

### ***1.3 Commitment on Political Activities***

PCC provides development assistance on a non-discriminatory basis; there can be no conditions based on specific political beliefs or membership of a particular political group for participation in our projects and programs. Outside project activity, PCC cannot and will not limit the rights of its partner church staff or project participants to engage in the political life of their country.

PCC clearly distinguishes between community development and “partisan political activities”. PCC considers the definition of “political activities” as supporting a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.

Examples include:

- NGO staff (PCC interprets this to mean PCC 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 a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a political party structure.