

2.7 POLICY ON DISTINGUISHING DEVELOPMENT FROM WELFARE, POLITICS AND RELIGION

Hagar Australia will not use development funds for welfare, political or religious purposes. This policy will be explained to all recipients of its activities. Hagar Australia funds will be used on the basis of need and without distinction of religious beliefs, race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, nationality or political persuasion. Hagar Australia does not support the funding of welfare-based projects.

Hagar Australia does not use development funds, whether they come from government agencies or from the general public, for any of the following activities:

1. Projects designed to promote a particular political party or religious adherence. This includes activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another.
2. Projects which require beneficiaries/communities to adhere to a particular set of political or religious beliefs as a pre-requisite for involvement.
3. Projects which have multiple objectives where the development component funded is not specified and financially accounted for.
4. Projects where the beneficiary is a political or religious institution as distinct from the local community.
5. Projects where institutionalized care programs are provided by orphanages.
6. Projects which include child sponsorship (that is, funds given directly to children or their families, and not funds drawn from child sponsorship and used for development purposes).
7. Projects which include hospital care programs and hospices.
8. Projects implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities, including no strategy for integration.
9. Projects that are provided on an individual or family basis, rather than on a community basis and unconnected to emergency needs.
10. Projects which are implemented on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.

Hagar Australia provides institutional care on a short-term emergency basis. Its work is focused on development of people and their communities. Work with individuals is always centered on independence rather than dependence on Hagar. Counselling and education are provided on a short-term basis with the ultimate goal of preparing clients for reintegration into the community. The policies contained in this manual aim to assist Hagar Australia staff and Program Offices

overseas to communicate the difference between activities that are classified as ‘development’ and those which could be defined as welfare, political or religious.

Hagar Australia also uses newsletters and annual reports to communicate and guarantee that development is distinguished from welfare, politics and religion. These materials regularly explain how funds are used and that no development funds are applied to the activities listed above.

Hagar Australia’s policy on non-development activity is extended to its Program Office partners and articulated in the Partnership Agreement with each Program Office (attached at Appendix 7).

It is the responsibility of Hagar Australia and each Hagar Program Office to ensure that staff adhere to Hagar Australia’s policy and do not engage in evangelism. If an issue arises relating to activities that could be considered to be promoting a particular political party or religious adherence, it is managed within the Program Office and reported to the Hagar Australia board and Hagar Group Executive. Incidences of evangelism are addressed by the Hagar Group Executive and the Hagar Australia Board.