

<b>Portfolio:</b>	<b>OPERATIONS</b>	<b>Ref. No.</b>	<b>EXA-RGH-046</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>RACS Global Health</b>		
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Development and Non-Development Policy</b>		

## 1. PURPOSE

This policy provides a framework to ensure that the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Global Health programs operate under a development philosophy that is consistent with the objectives of the Australian Aid Program and the ACFID Code of Conduct.

RACS Global Health programs are focussed on working with program partners across the Asia-Pacific region to deliver development activities that build the capacity of those partners and contribute to the strengthening and sustainability of local health systems. RACS therefore ensures that all development-designated funds are utilised for that purpose and are not used to promote or support non-development activities associated with welfare, religious and/or partisan political objectives.

## 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all **RACS people** engaged by RACS or RACS Global Health to perform any part of a RACS Global Health-related activity, including:

- staff;
- contractors/consultants;
- program volunteers;
- program sub-contractors;
- local program partners; and
- Council members.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

RACS defines the key terms in this policy as follows:

**Development activities:** Activities that are delivered to increase the development capacity of partners in the Asia-Pacific region and to contribute to the strengthening and sustainability of local health systems in line with national Health Plans.

**Non-development activities:** Activities that are delivered to further welfare, religious and/or partisan political objectives, and do not therefore contribute to sustainable development and self-reliance.

**Welfare activities:** Welfare activities are defined as care and maintenance which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer-term basis. Welfare activities often have a narrow focus on the provision of services to individuals, families and communities on a long-term basis with no clear exit plan nor strategy to build local capacity and reduce dependence on external support. Welfare activities typically leading to an increasing dependence on the assistance given. Where activities deliver specific services within a context of increasing

Approved By: Chief Operating Officer

Document Owner: Head of Global Health

Original Issue: May 2020

Version: 1

Approval Date: May 2020

Review Date: May 2022

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local/national capacity and enabling individuals, communities and local partner organisations to engage more fully and more effectively in the development process and build and sustain their own capacity, they are not considered as welfare activities.

**Religious activities:** Activities that support or promote a particular religion, including activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith or denomination to another.

**Partisan political activities:** Activities that support a particular political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.

#### 4. STANDARDS

RACS is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct and is therefore committed to meeting the quality principles and commitments within that Code as it relates to the way that RACS works with local people and partners that benefit from its Global Health programs to respect their human rights, to avoid discrimination, and to contribute to systemic change. As a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, RACS is committed to having its funds or any other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development, and not to be used for non-development activities that promote a particular religion, political party or individual or organisation affiliated to a particular party, nor to undertake welfare activities. (Quality Principle 7, Commitment 7.3.2)

As an DFAT-accredited NGO, RACS 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)

RACS people also comply with the RACS Code of Conduct which includes commitments to abide by this policy.

#### 5. FOSTERING A ROBUST DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

In line with RACS Global Health strategy and development approach, RACS Global Health programs are guided by the following principles:

**(a) Adherence to the RACS values and Workforce Conduct Policy.** RACS program activities are delivered with local partners for the benefit of local people on a non-discriminatory basis, irrespective of the religious or political beliefs or memberships of local partners and people.

**(b) Commitment to the development of sustainable local health systems through its capacity-building partnerships with local organisations across the Asia-Pacific region.** While stand-alone, welfare or limited focus service delivery programs are not RACS 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

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for direct service delivery assistance activities are strategically phased out as in-country partners progressively strengthen their capacity;

**(c) Commitment to build local capacity, confidence and optimise sustainability in all program activities.** The degree and nature of capacity building supported by RACS Global Health will vary across programs and will depend upon the specific needs and priorities, strengths, capacities and resources of each program partner, the national and local health systems, and the communities they support; and

**(d) Commitment to use aid and development funds for the development purposes for which they are intended.**

## 6. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

RACS Global Health Strategic Plan

RACS Workforce Conduct Policy

**Approver** International Engagement Committee

**Authoriser** Council

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