

Overseas Mission Giving and Donation Policy

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Contact: Registrar

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Introduction

From time to time, our Diocese and Parishes choose to provide financial and other resource support to overseas organisations. This practice is aligned to the mission of the church and our Diocese. However, in undertaking activities overseas or funding activities overseas, it is essential that Parishes and Diocesan entities comply with Australian legal requirements.

The Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (**ACNC**) requires registered charities and *Basic Religious Charities* to comply with **External Conduct Standards**.

This policy sets out the way that groups within our Diocese can ensure they comply with External Conduct Standards requirements.

OUR POLICY AIMS

- To ensure that all resources sent overseas / support foreign mission is done via an Australian Charity that is set up specifically for this purpose and is currently registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit (ACNC).
- To ensure none of our Parishes or charities, place their ACNC registration in jeopardy and lose their charitable status by breaching External Conduct Standards.

WE COMMIT TO:

1. Support the overseas mission of the church, whilst complying with ACNC's requirements
2. Ensure that funds are spent via an Australian charity which is specifically set-up for this purpose.
3. Common examples are Anglican Board of Mission (ABM), Church Missionary Society Trust (CMS), TEAR Australia and many others.
4. The ACNC website "search a charity" function provides a mechanism to check that a charity is currently registered as operating overseas.

HOW DO WE MANAGE THE PROCESS?

It is the responsibility of our governing bodies such as Parish Councils, Diocesan Executive, Bishop-in-Council to ensure that all activities involving operations outside Australia, including the sending of money, is done through a registered charity with ACNC and is specifically registered to operate overseas. Prior to collection of any funds or resources or entering into any sponsorship collaborative arrangements, the above must be confirmed.

If there is any doubt, please contact the Registry for further advice.

Policy Scope & Coverage

This policy applies to all Parishes and Diocesan entities when providing resources, both financial and other support, for use of overseas.

Definitions:

ACNC: Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission is the national regulator of charities

Basic Religious Charity: ACNC defines a basic Religious Charity as a registered charity with the purpose of advancing religion and which meets specific requirements. Generally Parishes in our Diocese report and comply with Basic Religious Charity requirements

Diocesan Entities: entities operating under the governance requirements of Australian Charities and Not-for-profit commission (ACNC) as a registered charity which includes:

- Bendigo Anglican Diocesan Corporation
- Bendigo Diocesan Corporation Trust

External Conduct Standards: are a set of standards that govern how a registered charity must manage its activities and resources outside Australia

Operating Outside of Australia is defined by the ACNC as “generally includes undertaking activities overseas or sending money or resources overseas, no matter how small.”

RESPONSIBILITIES

Policy Advice: Registrar

Policy Implementation and oversight: Parish Councils, Diocesan Executive

Policy Review Responsibility: Bishop in Council

Related Documents: Internal

Annual Mission Giving Reporting to Synod, which includes all mission giving whether domestic or overseas.

Related Documents: External

<https://www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/manage-your-charity/governance-hub/acnc-external-conduct-standards/when-do-external>

Authorisation



Bishop Matt Brain - Chair
Bishop-in-Council
November 2019