



## DFAT / NGO Committee for Development Cooperation

A Joint Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australian Non-Government Organisations

### COMMITTEE OR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MEETING 173

17 December 2024 – 10am – 12pm

Online via MS Teams

#### Participants

- Michael Bergmann (DFAT) – Chair
- Adrian Fleming (DFAT)
- Mary James (DFAT)
- Lauren Minson (DFAT)
- Sarah Hunt (ChildFund Australia)
- Peter Keegan (UnitingWorld)
- Fiona Smith (Transform Aid)

#### CDC Secretariat and Observers

- Shani Field (DFAT)
- Liz Nannelli (DFAT)
- Emily Moreton (ACFID)
- Alan Hewson (ACFID), note taker

### 1. Welcome, Introduction, Apologies and conflict check

#### Acknowledgement of Country

- The Chair opened the meeting with the Acknowledgement of Country.

#### Welcome

- The Chair welcomed everyone to 173<sup>rd</sup> CDC meeting and acknowledged the reappointment of Sarah Hunt and the election of Fiona Smith to the CDC, as NGO representatives.

#### Introductions/Apologies

- The Chair invited all participants to briefly introduce themselves and noted there were no apologies.

#### Observers

- The Chair invited the observers to briefly introduce themselves.

#### Conflict check

- The Chair asked meeting participants to declare any conflicts of interest.
- Two potential conflicts were discussed, with the CDC agreeing that neither required the member to excuse themselves from the relevant discussion.

### 2. Endorsement of the final 172nd & draft Nov Out of Session CDC Meeting Minutes

- The CDC endorsed the draft minutes for the out of session meeting held on 1 November. The Chair moved to accept the minutes and Sarah Hunt seconded the motion.



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- The CDC endorsed the final minutes for the 172<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Chair moved to accept the minutes and Adrian Fleming seconded the motion.

### 3. Update on action items – by exception

- Liz Nannelli noted that the Action Log was circulated to members and highlighted several updates:
  - Thank-you letters had been sent – from the CDC – to John Morley and Selvi Vikan for their service and long tenure on the Committee.
  - Continued work is being undertaken on the development of the refreshed DFAT accreditation manual.
    - DFAT’s work on the accreditation criteria refresh means that DFAT had also completed its review of the child safeguarding accreditation criteria.
  - Changes to the Organisation Review (OR) report structure – including those suggested by the CDC – would be considered as part of the ongoing accreditation refresh.
- Alan Hewson noted two updates to the Action Log:
  - ACFID conducted a webinar on 29 October 2024 on the ethical use of images.
  - A review of the ACFID Code to identify gaps regarding informed consent had been completed and a new ACFID Ethical Communication Community of Practice would be established in 2025.

### 4. Updates

#### a. From DFAT (Chair)

##### Transparency Portal

- The Chair noted the release of the DFAT transparency portal meant that data on ANCP has been drawn from DFAT’s AidWorks system using 2022-23 data and is available on the portal at the investment level.
  - This data shows the full details of some ANCP programs – rather than just the portion of those programs that is DFAT funded.
  - The Chair advised ANCP agencies should reach out to DFAT with any questions they might have about the 2022/23 data that was currently on the portal and noted the DFAT secretariat would continue to monitor the data that is included on the transparency portal – including the ANCP data.

##### Release of international development strategies

- The Chair noted the recent release of DFAT’s International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy (IDEARS) and the Humanitarian Policy and thanked the Sector for its contribution to the development of both.

##### ANCP 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- The Chair noted the ANCP 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary had happened in early November and thanked everyone who participated.
- More information regarding the announcement by the Minister for International Development and the Pacific of an NGO accelerator will be shared with ACFID members in the coming year.



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### Staffing Update

- The Chair noted the DFAT section intended to include focus on Australian engagement with civil society has now been amalgamated with the ANCP/NPQ team.

### Policy Update

- The Chair noted that the new international development policy had been in place for a year.
- The Chair noted DFAT's review of the safeguarding policy is ongoing and the child protection policy has been updated.
- The Chair noted that a disability equity thematic review of the ANCP Program has been undertaken with a specific focus on barriers and opportunities for integrating disability equity and inclusion across the ANCP. The review was prompted by data suggesting declining performance on disability inclusion in the ANCP over the past few years..
  - ANCP agencies are demonstrating good practice and commitment to actively promoting inclusion at all stages of projects but limited engagement with OPD partners was identified as a key area of risk.
  - Key recommendations include .
    - strengthening partnerships between NGOs and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities and increasing core funding
  - The management response is being finalised ahead of releasing the thematic review report.
- The Chair welcomed the sector's support at ANCP reflections, and at three subsequent online information sessions, and generally to promote the refreshed accreditation criteria. The Chair said the Annual Accreditation Assessor's workshop was scheduled for 26-27 March. This year will focus on the refreshed criteria and how to apply them consistently. An NGO representative from the CDC and an ACFID representative will be invited to attend.
- Sarah Hunt asked about the progress of the ANCP funding policy review and the development of the accreditation manual.
  - Liz Nannelli noted that administrative steps remain to finalise the accreditation manual.
  - The Chair noted that the release of the accreditation manual was unlikely to be impacted by the caretaker conventions but DFAT would need to refer to the guidance including from PM&C.
    - The refreshed funding policy may be delayed and there was no immediate plan for its release.

### Accreditation summary

- Liz Nannelli said that 6 applications had been received in the new/upgrading applications round:
- Three were for base accreditation; two for full accreditation; and one for an existing ANCP accredited agency to upgrade to full accreditation.
- There were no subject-tos coming up for review.



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### **b. From ACFID (Emily Moreton)**

- Marc Purcell has stepped down as ACFID CEO and Matthew Maury is the current interim CEO through to the end of June.
- The disability equity review work was interesting and ACFID welcomed the management response and ways it can work with the sector on that, when released.
- ACFID's work on a planned peer learning course on disability equity would draw on findings.
- An ethical communications Community of Practice will be established in new year, drawing on a workshop held in October about the ethical use of images.
- A Community of Practice on data governance will also be established to discuss the use of AI and privacy issues.
- ACFID welcomes the link between the accreditation criteria for ANCP and ACFID's code. ACFID is considering how to best support new applicants for ANCP in light of the refreshed criteria.
- The Chair noted that DFAT is considering engaging a data analyst to review the data in SmartyGrants
  - The Chair advised that any plans to make the data more public and available than current, including for research, would be brought to the CDC.

### **5. Organisation Review Reports**

- Three organisation review reports and one subject to report were discussed.

### **6. Other Issues for NGO representatives to table / Any other business**

- No other business was raised.

### **7. Discuss next CDC meeting date**

- Liz Nannelli advised that the next meeting is planned for February 2025.
- The Chair thanked the CDC for their engagement and input.

### **8. Meeting close – 12.00pm**