

ACFID Code of Conduct Committee Meeting

Melbourne, 10 May 2019

Compliance assessment workshop

The Committee engaged in an ‘assessors workshop’ delivered by the Code Secretariat, which enabled the CCC members to gain a better understanding of how the Code Secretariat assess and monitor members’ compliance with the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Committee were provided a Code Commitment and walked through the expected requirements, and then asked to assess compliance of several de-identified responses provided by ACFID membership. The workshop also demonstrated the volume and depth of work involved with compliance reporting undertaken by members annually.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse – implementation update

The Committee considered the alignment of proposed changes to the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) in relation to prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse with DFAT requirements. The DFAT policy refers to a set of minimum standards, and these standards are applied differently based on the assessed risk of the setting in which the organisation is operating. Until DFAT release the associated risk assessment framework guidance it is not possible to comprehensively assess the alignment, and the process is being paused until this guidance is released (any time now).

Given this delay, and the concerns heard from members about the impact of multiple changes across a short timeframe especially in relation to implementing the bulk of those with partners, the Committee agreed that the changes to the Quality Assurance Framework **will not take effect** for members on 1 July 2019. Instead, **the changes will take effect on 31 December 2019**. Guidance, webinars, and workshops will be delivered prior to this date to ensure members are fully informed and supported to achieve compliance with these changes. The first cohort of members will report on their compliance to these changes in May 2020.

In addition, compliance with [1.5](#) (members demonstrate their organisational commitment to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse) was deemed a high-risk area meaning non-compliance will have a maximum 4-month timeframe for compliance to be rectified.

Annual Code Compliance Report

The CCC discussed the annual code compliance report for 2018-19 and noted that the value of the compliance report would increase from year to year as increased data will lead to better analysis of trends and context. Analysis showed that self-assessed compliance with the Code remains at a high level. The CCC’s focus area of financial wrongdoing includes verifying members’ policies and procedures and as such, this is the highest area of verified non-compliance. The Committee discussed the continuing low number of complaints received and sought to better understand reasons for the low number as well as discussing the trends and reflections represented by the nature of those complaints. The Code Secretariat will continue to support members through their compliance journey through customised assessment, learning opportunities and other activities that seek to profile good practice as demonstrated by leading members.

New membership applications

The CCC approved 3 organisations for Code Signatory Status and recommended them for full interim membership at the next meeting of ACFID's Board. It also noted that the second round for membership applications includes 8 new applicants, reflecting an interest in ACFID membership that is the highest recorded in many years.

Gender and Diversity within the CCC

The Committee discussed various affirmative approaches to gender equality and equity that can be adopted within the remit of the CCC. This included the composition of the CCC in terms of how gender and diversity were reflected, and application of a gender-lens to the work and communication from the committee. Consideration of this issue will continue, along with potential training in the future for CCC members.

Images and Messages

The Committee noted the work being done to progress the CCC Focus Area of Marketing and Fundraising, which has involved specifically seeking feedback from members on the trickier areas of using imagery from third parties and in the humanitarian context. Some of these issues were discussed, and in most cases a 'common-sense approach' or a 'reasonable judgement' basis was considered the better approach, noting that the future guidance on the Ethical Decision Making Framework that ACFID will soon deliver (May 2019) will also help guide members through the decision-making process.

The next CCC meeting will be held on **16 August 2019**.

Information about the Code of Conduct Committee including Committee members and the Terms of reference can be found on the [ACFID Website](#).

For more information about the Code of Conduct Committee, contact ACFID Standards and Code Lead Sophie Seck on (02) 8123 2222 or sseck@acfid.asn.au