

ACFID Code of Conduct Meeting

This is a summary of the CCC meeting held online on 22 May 2020.

The CCC meets four times each year. Communiqués of each meeting are produced so that ACFID's members can read and understand the work of the CCC. The next meeting will be held online on 21 August 2020.

Impact of COVID-19

The Committee was briefed on ACFID's recent activities in response to COVID-19. These included lobbying around the JobKeeper payment and ANCP funding, facilitating sector collaboration and knowledge sharing. The Committee discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the operations of ACFID and its members, and the potential consequences for future activities. The CCC will continue to review the impact of COVID-19 in future meetings.

CCC Focus Areas 2020-23

The CCC decided to pursue three focus areas for 2020-23:

- Environmental sustainability
- Prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment
- Disability-inclusive development

Activities undertaken as part of CCC focus areas aim to improve compliance and enhance good practice in relation to specific principles in the Code. Strategies for each of these new focus areas will now be developed.

As part of the new focus areas, the Committee decided that the following documents will be called in through members' Code Self-Assessments for the next cycle of triennial reporting: PSEA policy, complaints handling policy, disability or inclusive development policy. Further information about the focus areas and reporting requirements will be provided to members as part of regular Code communications.

Annual Compliance Report

The Committee discussed the annual compliance report for 2019-20. This report is used to assist in the continuous improvement of the Code and to inform future learning opportunities.

The Committee noted that the past three years have seen the transformation from a Code that had progressive options for compliance, to one of mandatory compliance. This has been a significant shift and the extra effort required from members to achieve compliance was acknowledged. The Committee noted that, now that most members have completed a Code Self-Assessment for the first time, the time and effort required for Code compliance and the reporting process should reduce. The CCC will continue to review members' experiences of Code reporting.

Code compliance research

The Committee was joined by Sheryl Liu, an intern with the Australian National Internship Program, who discussed her research project looking at the costs and benefits of compliance with the Code of Conduct. The Committee noted the relevance of this research in the current climate and will consider the final report at their meeting in August.

New membership application

The CCC approved Destiny Rescue Australia and the Australian Federation for AIDS Organisations for Code Signatory Status and recommended them for full interim membership at the next meeting of ACFID's Board.

CCC Governance

The Committee agreed on a final version of the CCC Governance Framework. This includes a requirement that at least 50% of Committee members are women. This document will sit alongside the updated CCC Terms of Reference and replace the previous TOR and Operating Guidelines.

The Committee approved updates to the information on complaints handling currently on ACFID's website. The new wording aims to ensure the Committee's process is clear and accessible for anyone wishing to make a complaint. For transparency, a record of complaints received will also be listed on ACFID's website as part of these changes.

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