



WELCOME TO ACFID

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) unites Australia's aid and international development NGOs to strengthen their collective impact against poverty. The key benefit of being a member of ACFID is being part of this network, which enables your organisation to be engaged in and informed by dialogue on emerging issues that affect our sector. It also provides your organisation with the opportunity to contribute to and influence decisions affecting the work and credibility of our sector.

Member Testimonial: Jackie Perkins, Quaker Services Australia

"Why bother with ACFID Membership? Simply because ACFID membership gives your organisation a range of options and opportunities that would not otherwise be available. For a small agency – we currently have 1.4 FTE plus several regular volunteers – so this opportunity to participate is fantastic.

Suppose you have been asked to prepare policy outlines or protocols to implement an existing policy – how would you get the information you need? You could trawl through the websites of a number of different agencies to see what they have done, or you could read ACFID's Member Bulletin or talk to their staff for some practical, down to earth and incredibly usable ideas which members have supplied from their in-house tools and which can be adapted to suit your needs. You could also make contact with other agency staff that you have met and chatted with during ACFID workshops, ACFID Council or as part of the Member Information Forums or ring up fellow member agencies you don't know and ask them to share information and tools with you.

But ACFID is more than that. Through its Communities of Practice, permanent sub committees and interaction with its dedicated and professional staff, it's also a means through which you can really have a say in advocacy, research events and other forums in our sector. ACFID exists to support the Australian aid and development sector and its members. Whatever lobbying ACFID does, we all benefit."

Being an ACFID member entitles you to a range of information and services such as:

REPRESENTATION: Adding your voice to our united efforts as we lobby for the sector's interests and keep them informed on any new developments in government policy. ACFID represents member agency views and interests to the Australian Government and other key stakeholders, including multilateral organisations, and visiting dignitaries from other countries.

CODE OF CONDUCT: Members are part of an internationally recognised network of Australian development organisations committed to transparency, accountability and integrity.

- You can access a wide range of support in relation to the code and developing key policies and procedures for your organisation by reaching out to the Code Team at any time.
- Affiliation with the Code leads to an increase in organizational credibility and subsequently an increase in donor confidence.
- Members are also able to access DFAT funding via the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)

"I am in a compliance and grant-writing role and receive feedback from a wide number of agencies, but I have never seen such useful and customised feedback as the recent feedback from ACFID. As a result, it is clear what we need to do and the examples and references to resources is incredibly helpful"

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

ACFID acts as a focal point for information to and about members. We have a dedicated Membership Lead whose role is to create links between members and assist organisations to get the most out of their membership. We also provide:

- Annual analysis of Australia's aid budget and the implications for NGOs
- Statistical information on the sector through our annual statistical survey, annual report and State of the Sector report.
- Access to regular forums and seminars conducted to provide members with up-to-date information relating to significant and emerging issues. Member Information Forums and access to ACFID's CEO through visits/meetings
- Communication channels: Member Bulletin, Sector News and CEO updates.

NETWORKING: There are multiple times throughout the year for members to network with each other. These take place at learning events such as ACFID National Conference but also Member Information Forums (MIFs) and CoPs. If you would like ACFID to broker a relationship on your behalf, we are more than happy to assist where possible.

LEARNING AND INNOVATION: Members receive free or reduced prices for participation in many of the training opportunities created by our Learning and Innovation Team. These range from face to face to online.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE: Members have access to over 30 online Communities of Practice that are intentionally member-led in order to provide a space to come together to share, learn, collaborate and advocate around a particular subject area.

INFLUENCE: Members are encouraged to have active participation in the functions of ACFID, with voting rights

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at the ACFID AGM, and eligibility to nominate for ACFID committees which have a key role in developing and implementing ACFID policy.

- ACFID Board
- The Development Practice Committee (DPC)
- The Code of Conduct Committee (CCC)
- The Humanitarian Reference Group (HRG)

What is the basis of the ACFID fee structure?

ACFID fees are set on a sliding scale based on the amount of money organisations disburse overseas for aid and development activities. Some members, particularly from smaller organisations, are concerned about their ability to pay ACFID's membership fees and whether they will get value from the amount expended. There are several reasons why ACFID charges membership fees at the rate that we do.

- ACFID receives approximately half of its funding from DFAT and half from membership fees, a ratio which has been set by our governing body to strengthen our sustainability and limit the effects of any sudden change in our funding stream.
- Fees are required from members to maintain this ratio and these fees fully fund ACFID's advocacy efforts which have shown time and again to be highly. Many members feel that if ACFID didn't exist, they would need staff based in Canberra to undertake the work we do.
- Other fees maintain the Code of Conduct and deliver a worthwhile learning and development program, both of which are supported by DFAT.
- The fact that our many small and large members see great value in this status is reflected by the fact that we currently have over 120 very diverse members from across the Australian NGO sector.

Can ACFID provide any extra support to help me through the Membership Application process?

ACFID can provide you and your organisation with support if you need to help understand the value of ACFID Membership and to assist you through the application process each step of the way.

Please contact ACFID's Membership Lead, Raewyn Lans on membership@acfid.asn.au or on 02 8123 2235.