Advocacy Policy

Policy Statement

Good Neighbours Australia ("GNAU") operates with the mission "to make the world a place without hunger, where people live together in harmony", which guides our intent to advance equality and pursue social justice for all, as we help build inclusive and harmonious communities.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Advocacy Policy is to outline the guiding principles relating to advocacy activities undertaken by GNAU, as we seek to protect and promote the rights of vulnerable individuals and advocate for marginalised communities.

The scope of this policy applies to all GNAU Committee members, employees, contractors, and volunteers who work with vulnerable people, for example children and their families, refugees, the elderly, and people with disability, through activities undertaken both here in Australia, and overseas.

This policy complements GNAU's Communication Policy, which also references how we advocate on key issues amongst our stakeholders, striving to increase the profile and understanding of the international development sector and the vulnerable people it serves.

Advocacy Activities

GNAU aims to generate awareness and initiate change through its advocacy activities in Australia, including but not limited to:

- Raising awareness of key issues, as communicated through its publications, social media, website and campaigns;
- Education delivered through its stakeholder events, to connect participants with relevant information;
- Provision of referral services, communicated through support websites created for minority communities, so they can seek professional support, where needed;
- Occasional one-on-one support of individuals we come into contact with through the course of our community events and activities, who need to be referred on to appropriate services.

Policy Detail

GNAU's main role is to raise awareness of human rights issues and advance equality for all through its advocacy activities.

At times, through the course of its activities, it may need to connect an individual or a community it works with in Australia, with appropriate referral services or assist them with accessing specialist professional services.

GNAU does not provide counselling, decision-making services, or mediation for its stakeholders, but will seek to connect individuals or communities through to the appropriate support and professional services through its network.

Responsibilities

Responsibility for the strategic management of the GNAU Advocacy Policy lies with the ED. Responsibility for operational management of the GNAU Advocacy Policy lies with the CM.

Review

This policy will be available on GNAU's shared drive. This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner, as required.

Definition

Advocacy - Advocacy is acting, speaking, writing or communicating otherwise to promote and protect the human rights and welfare of vulnerable individuals or a group of people.

Related Policies and Procedures

- Child Safeguarding Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Communications Policy
- Complaint Handling Policy

External References

The GNAU Advocacy Policy and related procedures are underpinned by the ACFID Code of Conduct and DFAT Accreditation Guidelines.

Document Control Information

Advocacy Policy	
Owner	Executive Director
Master Copy	Campaign Manager
Date created	07/11/2023
Date last reviewed	N/A
Signed off by Executive Director	Sylvia Lee
Approved by the Committee	13/03/2024
Date next Review	07/11/2026

Date	Version	Revision Description	Reviewed / Updated by
07/11/2023	1	Draft Created	Sylvia Lee 4/01/2024