

# Policy

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**Title:** Humanitarian Crisis Assistance

**Category:** Community Services and Events

**Date Last Adopted:** 7 March 2016

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## 1. Objectives

The policy aims to provide a guide to the Council when considering responses to humanitarian crises.

## 2. Background

The Council has historically provided assistance and financial contributions in response to natural disasters and humanitarian crises both within Australia and internationally.

The following policy is designed to assist the Council should future natural disaster and humanitarian crisis events warrant a response from the Council in the future.

## 3. Policy

That:

1. The Council may determine to respond to humanitarian crises by making donations to non-government organisations which provide humanitarian assistance in relevant countries.
2. It is recognised that the most effective way the Council can support a relief effort is by cash donation.
3. The Council will direct donations to non-government organisations which are signatories to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct and/or those which have been declared as an 'Approved Organisation' by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (administered by AusAID).
4. For the purpose of this policy, a humanitarian crisis is defined as:

A profound social crisis which is characterised by:

- (i) High numbers of casualties; and/or
  - (ii) Large scale internal and external displacement; and/or
  - (iii) Widespread hunger and disease.
5. A humanitarian crisis may arise from any natural or man-made disaster.
6. The Council will consider making donations when:
  - (i) An affected country has officially requested assistance from the Australian Government; or
  - (ii) An Australian natural disaster has been declared in accordance with relevant legislation
7. The Council will not consider donations in response to humanitarian crises arising from war or conflict without seeking prior advice from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
8. The Council will give preference to:
  - (i) Australian natural disasters;
  - (ii) The Council's Sister Cities;
  - (iii) Countries in Australia's neighbourhood, i.e. the Asia Pacific region; and
  - (iv) Countries with whom Australia has a development partnership, as listed on AusAID's website.
9. Assistance to developed countries will only be considered when:
  - (i) A Federal Government Treasury Minister has officially recognised the disaster for Australian tax purposes;
  - (ii) Inhabitants of that country are in distress as a result of the disaster; and
  - (iii) A public fund has been established in order to provide money for relief purposes.
10. The amount contributed will be determined by resolution of Council and will take into account:
  - (i) The scale of the crisis;
  - (ii) The capacity of the domestic government and local agencies to respond to the crisis;

- (iii) The impact of the crisis on the Hobart community; and
- (iv) Any formal connections the Council may have with the affected location.

## 4. Legislation, Terminology and References

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Director Community Development
<b>Policy first adopted by the Council:</b>	13/12/2010
<b>Amendments</b>	
Amended by Council	14/8/2014
Amended by Council	7/3/2016
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	March 2017