# Welfare and Development Policy

| Policy Title | Welfare and Development Policy IPP006 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Unit | International Program, Habitat for Humanity Australia | | |
| Version | Version 3.0 | | |
| Authorised by | Board of Directors | | |
| Date endorsed | 27 June 2008 | | |
| Re-ratified | 1 Nov 2011 | | |
| Reviewed | 12 June 2015 | Re-ratified | 10 August 2015 |

## Introduction

Habitat for Humanity Australia (HFHA) clearly distinguishes its work from the normal definition of welfare activities. Instead of providing assistance on short-term bases often not requiring active community engagement to address immediate needs of individuals and communities, HFHA seeks to foster self-reliance by engaging communities as active partners in project activities. While HFHA can provide assistance to individuals and families, HFHA's approach is integrated within a broader community development program aimed at improving social and economic conditions, and strengthening the capacity of communities to respond to their own needs.

## Policy Statement

HFHA adopts the strengths-based model to enable communities to respond to their own needs, by ensuring that initiatives are undertaken that:

- Promote self-reliance, by strengthening existing skills and building upon capacities that communities require to respond to their own development needs.
- Build upon the local resources and capacities that exist within the communities that HFHA works with.
- Are socially inclusive and engage families and communities as active partners in every stage of the development process.
- Reinforce the approach of 'hand up' and not 'hand out' to ensure that the dignity and equality of communities with which we work remain intact.
- Focus on project activities that are time bound and include exit strategies, as well as strategies for ensuring the long-term sustainability of project outcomes.

## Policy in Practice

In implementing this policy, HFHA:

- Works to ensure that it provides a "hand up" and not a "hand out". Assistance through shelter security will typically be provided on a shared-cost basis with home partners entering into a loan as part of their contribution. Exceptions may include projects assisting disaster-affected or extremely vulnerable groups who have no means of making loan repayments. In these instances, home partners are

PO Box 1048 North Sydney NSW 2059

t: +61 2 9919 7000   f: +61 2 9919 7088   e: info@habitat.org.au   www.habitat.org.au

Habitat for Humanity Australia Overseas Aid Fund ABN 36 747 459 174

Habitat for Humanity Australia Domestic Fund ABN 66 095 541 841

ACN 131 976 004

ACFID
MEMBER

still required to make non-financial contributions to the project (e.g. voluntary labour, building materials). These activities will be incorporated within a broader program of capacity building and skills development activities.

- Facilitates community saving schemes as a means for participants to contribute financially to building their own homes and manage loan repayments (where applicable).
- Implements projects in cooperation with government and local partner organisations to ensure accountability and sustainability.
- Creates self-sustaining revolving funds which can be used to assist other disenfranchised families.
- Provides capacity building trainings for local communities that include leadership and governance training, and livelihood skills development.
- Ensures that program staff and local counterparts understand and support the principles of sustainable community development and seek expertise where required.
- Ensures that project designs go beyond the provision of individual houses and support broader social and economic development.
- Monitors social and economic development outcomes as measures of project impact.