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This policy provides a framework to ensure that the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Global Health programs operate under a development philosophy that is consistent with the objectives of the Australian Aid Program and the ACFID Code of Conduct.

RACS Global Health programs are focussed on work that is in the public interest and that is consistent with the designated funds are utilised for that purpose and are not used to promote or support non-development activities associated with welfare, religious and/or partisan political objectives.

This policy applies to all engaged by RACS or RACS Global Health to perform any part of a RACS Global Health-related activity, including:

- staff;
- contractors/consultants;
- program volunteers;
- program sub-contractors;
- local program partners; and
- Council members.

RACS defines the key terms in this policy as follows:

Activities that are delivered to increase the development capacity of partners in the Asia-Pacific region and to contribute to the strengthening and sustainability of local health systems in line with national Health Plans.

Activities that are delivered to further welfare, religious and/or partisan political objectives, and do not therefore contribute to sustainable development and self-reliance.

Welfare activities are defined as care and maintenance which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer-term basis. Welfare activities often have a narrow focus on the provision of services to individuals, families and communities on a long- term basis with no clear exit plan nor strategy to build local capacity and reduce dependence on external support. Welfare activities typically leading to an increasing dependence on the assistance given. Where activities deliver specific services within a context of increasing

local/national capacity and enabling individuals, communities, and local partner organisations to engage more fully and more effectively in the development process and build and sustain their own capacity, they are not considered as welfare activities.

Activities that support or promote a particular religion, including activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith or denomination to another.

: Activities that support a particular political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.

: RACS Global Health recognizes and will empower the role of local actors and leaders in a humanitarian response. Where possible our programming and resources are determined at the discretion of national and regional partners, particularly national clinicians and hospitals who determine their own needs for RACS GH assistance. When responding to humanitarian

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