



Partners in Aid

AUSTRALIA

CHILD EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP POLICY

Version Control and Review

Version	Date	Distribution
1.0	<2015	Board members; website link
2.0	June 2016	Board members; Committee members; Partner Organisations, website link
3.0	January 2018	Board members; Committee members; Partner Organisations, website link
4.0	April 2020	Board members; Committee members; Partner Organisations, website link, Social Media volunteers

1. Background

Partners in Aid is committed to the safety and well-being of all children. We support the rights of children and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is maintained. We are committed to the protection of children from harm, sexual of other abuse and exploitation. These rights and our responsibilities are documented within our Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct.

Children have a right to survival, development, protection and participation as stated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. (UNCRC). We will uphold these rights.

Partners in Aid recognizes that sponsoring children's education is one means of achieving its goals and the social interests of its donors. Child education sponsorship schemes are the only Partners in Aid funded development initiatives that target children. We no longer support sponsorship programs which provide funding for the general support of individual families. Child education sponsorship provides donors with the opportunity to make a regular contribution to the education of a child and to receive regular reports on that child's educational progress; it also provides support to children and their families which ensures that a child attends school up to Year 10 and receives funds to assist with the costs of education. Child sponsorship assists in promoting the value of education to children as a means of improving their standard of living.

Partners in Aid takes its duty of care seriously and aims to always provide the safest

possible management of child education sponsorship.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the principles and actions involved in the initiation, child selection, sponsor reporting, communication, funding, monitoring and evaluation of PIA Child Sponsorship Programs. It should be read in conjunction with the Partners in Aid Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct.

3. Scope

This policy applies to Child Education Sponsorship Programs supported by Partners in Aid in partnership with SEDS and ABWU in India, and any future child sponsorship programs that might be supported by Partners in Aid.

4. Procedures

4.1 Initiation

- 4.1.1 Child sponsorship is an undertaking that must consider the interests of the children and their families as the primary priority.
- 4.1.2 The capacity of both Partners in Aid and the Partner Organisation to successfully administer the program must be considered.
- 4.1.3 Partners in Aid and the Partner Organisation will work together to develop a proposal that describes the scope, objectives, method of implementation, funding arrangements, and monitoring and evaluation criteria, for the project.

4.2 Selection of Children

- 4.2.1 It is the responsibility of the Partner Organisation to identify the children for sponsorship. In general terms, this is done through an assessment of relative need, contextually, undertaken by the Partner Organisation. However, as the parameters for identifying the children in need who would most benefit from sponsorship may vary over time, the Partner Organisation will be asked to submit annually to Partners in Aid the precise criteria they plan to use in the selection of children in the coming year.
- 4.2.2 It is the responsibility of Partners in Aid to liaise with the Partner Organisation to ensure that the selection of the children is in accordance with our guiding principles. During in-country visits, efforts will be made to meet with a number of the sponsored children and their parent/s to confirm that this is taking place.
- 4.2.3 Each child selected for sponsorship should have a case profile established which is made available to the responsible Board Member of Partners in Aid, who will ensure the confidentiality of the information in the profile.

4.3 Opportunity for Participating Children to Have a Voice

- 4.3.1 In its funding of child sponsorship schemes Partners in Aid has linked into pre-existing schemes set up by Partner Organisations that have been assessed as compatible with the values and guiding principles of Partners in Aid. However, during in-country visits, Project Coordinators will make every effort to meet and talk to as many children and their parent/s as possible, ascertaining how they feel about the scheme in which they are participants and the overall effectiveness of the scheme. Should these talks suggest any divergence between the way the scheme is operating and the needs and aspirations of the children, this will be discussed in detail with the Partner Organisation with a view to possible changes being implemented.
- 4.3.2 On joining the sponsorship scheme, children and their parents will be informed on how they can make any complaints either to the Partner Organisation or directly to Partners in Aid, without risking exclusion from the scheme. This process will be discussed with Partner Organisations to ensure that they are willing to adopt a child friendly approach and response to any complaints that they might receive.

4.4 Reporting to Sponsors

- 4.4.1 Each year the Partner Organisation should provide adequate information to Partners in Aid to keep the donor informed about their sponsored child.

4.5 Communication between Sponsors and Children

- 4.5.1 Communication between sponsors and children should only occur via the Partners in Aid and/or Partner Organisation intermediaries.

4.6 Privacy Issues

- 4.6.1 Privacy issues are dealt with in our Privacy Policy

4.7 Conclusion of Sponsorship

- 4.7.1 Child sponsorship concludes:
- when the child completes their schooling, or
 - if the child's family does not meet conditions of the Partner regarding educational and health arrangements.

4.8 Funding Arrangements

- 4.8.1 Funding will be provided in biannual instalments.
- 4.8.2 Funds may be used by the Partner Organisation directly to pay for school and educational costs (including uniforms, books & equipment), health care services, transport costs of children to attend agreed activities, and administration costs at an agreed level.
- 4.8.3 The provision of ongoing funding is dependent on satisfactory reporting being received for consideration of the Board of Partners in Aid.
- 4.8.4 Funding may only be transferred to the Partner Organisation by electronic transfer to an agreed bank account.

4.9 Monitoring and Evaluation

- 4.9.1 Monitoring of the program will be conducted in conjunction with the Partner Organisation by the Board director responsible for the program on an annual basis.
- 4.9.2 A review of the effectiveness of the overall program will be conducted by a member of the Board or nominated person.
- 4.9.3 During the monitoring and review the voices of all stakeholders, including the children where possible, will be considered.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed after 2 years.

6. Other Relevant Partners in Aid Policies

Partners in Aid Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct

Partners in Aid Privacy Policy

Partners in Aid Transparency and Communications Policy

Partners in Aid Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment