

# Anti-terrorism Policy

## Purpose

This policy sets out the response of Water East Timor Inc (WET) to the risk of dealing with individuals and organisations associated with terrorism.

## Introduction

Terrorist activities are reliant on financial support. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) advises that terrorists have sought to manipulate and misappropriate resources from humanitarian and development NGOs to underpin their operations.

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) states that terrorists can misuse funds from not-for-profit organisations to finance and support their activities, with or without the charity’s knowledge, including through:

* using charity funding or assets
* using the charity’s name and status
* cleaning money through charities
* committing financial abuse within a charity
* setting up a charity for an illegal or improper purpose.

## Scope

This Anti-terrorism Policy applies to all members of WET, and any person who is engaged in carrying out WET projects and other activities – either in Timor-Leste or Australia.

## Definition

 A terrorist act is an act, or a threat to act, that meets both these criteria:

* an act that intends to coerce or influence the public or any government by intimidation to advance a political, religious or ideological cause
* an act that causes one or more of the following: death, serious harm or danger to a person; serious damage to property; serious risk to the health or safety of the public; serious disruption to, or destruction of critical infrastructure such as a telecommunications or electricity network.

## Anti-terrorism policy

1. WET renounces all forms of terrorism and will never knowingly support, tolerate or encourage terrorism or the activities of those who embrace terrorism, and will make every effort to ensure that its resources are not used to facilitate terrorist activity.
2. WET acknowledges that Australian Government legislation prohibits dealing with listed terrorist organizations and proscribed persons or entities. WET will at all times adopt measures intended to facilitate compliance with this legislation.
3. WET will confirm the identity, credentials and good standing of the people or organisations it supports and will check that these people or organisations are not on the proscribed lists maintained by the Australian Government.
4. WET will not knowingly remit any funds to known or suspected terrorist organisations or individuals.
5. WET will report any known or suspected terrorist links to the relevant national authority.

## Anti-terrorism procedures

1. WET must use its best efforts to know the identity, credentials and good standing of partners and recipient organisations (what they do, where they operate, who are their key decision makers).
2. Care will be taken to only transmit funds from WET using reputable banks and other financial institutions for this purpose.
3. Prior to WET funding any organisation, details of funded entities and their office bearers will be compared to Australian Government lists of terrorist and proscribed organisations.[[1]](#footnote-1)
4. WET will immediately withdraw all support, including provision of resources, if it has reason to believe that a WET partner has breached the requirements of this policy.

## Breaches of this policy

People engaged in WET projects or activities should be aware that breaches of this policy may be punishable under local laws and regulations.

If WET becomes aware of any breaches of this policy, action will immediately be taken to remove the person from the WET project or activity, and consideration will be given to reporting to law enforcement agencies.

## Communication

This policy will be communicated to any WET Australia-based project Team Leader, and Timor-Leste based Team Leader.

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| **Version number**  | 1 |
| **Date approved by the WET Committee of Management** | 8 April 2021 |
| **Date of next review**  | April 2024 |
| **Related policies and documents:** Part 5.3 of the Criminal Code Act 1995 (‘the Criminal Code’) – sets out criminal penalties (up to life imprisonment) for providing support intentionally or recklessly to a terrorist organisationPart 4 of the Charter of United Nations Act 1945 (‘the UN Charter Act’) – penalties apply for making assets available to a proscribed person or entity.ACNC Checklist: protecting your charity against the risk of terrorism financing: <https://www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/manage/managing-charity-risk/protecting-your-charity-against-risk-terrorism-financing> DFAT consolidated list of all persons and entities who are subject to targeted financial sanctions under Australian sanctions law. Those listed may be Australian citizens, foreign nationals, or residents in Australia or overseas. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/sanctions/Pages/consolidated-list#list>  |

1. There are currently (November 2020) no Timor-Leste based proscribed terrorist persons or organisations on DFAT’s lists. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)