



# Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation Charities Policy 2025

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to provide Guidance to the Board and staff of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation when responding to a range of situations including, but not limited to:

- requests for endorsement of charitable campaigns and projects
- requests for financial and / or in-kind support to charities
- invitations to the Joint Organisation to support or purchase tickets (including tables / seats) at fundraising events
- appointment of designated charity partners for any events and festivals with which the Joint Organisation might be associated.

## SCOPE

This Policy applies to full-time, part-time, casual, temporary and fixed term Joint Organisation employees (including students on placement and volunteers) and Board Members.

## DEFINITIONS

Charity	The Charities Act 2013 (Cth) defines a charity as an entity: a) that is a not-for-profit entity; and b) all of the purposes of which are: i. charitable purposes that are for the public benefit; or ii. purposes that are incidental or ancillary to, and in furtherance or in aid of, purposes of the entity covered by subparagraph (i); and c) none of the purposes of which are disqualifying purposes; and d) that is not an individual, a political party, or a government entity.
Charitable purpose	The Charities Act 2013 (Cth) defines a charitable purpose to include any of the following: a) the purpose of advancing health b) the purpose of advancing education c) the purpose of advancing social or public welfare d) the purpose of advancing religion e) the purpose of advancing culture f) the purpose of promoting reconciliation, mutual respect and tolerance between groups of individuals that are in Australia g) the purpose of promoting or protecting human rights

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	<p>h) the purpose of advancing the security or safety of Australia or the Australian public</p> <p>i) the purpose of preventing or relieving the suffering of animals</p> <p>j) the purpose of advancing the natural environment</p> <p>k) any other purpose beneficial to the general public that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to, or within the spirit of, any of the purposes mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (j)</p> <p>l) the purpose of promoting or opposing a change to any matter established by law, policy or practice in the Commonwealth, a State, a Territory or another country if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the case of promoting a change, the change is in furtherance or in aid of one or more of the purposes mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (k); or</li> <li>• In the case of opposing a change, the change is in opposition to, or in hindrance of, one or more of the purposes mentioned in those paragraphs</li> </ul>
Endorsement	<p>Endorsement is supporting a charity in a way that is distinct from a request for cash or in-kind support. A charity may request endorsement from the Joint Organisation in the form of, for example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. staff providing services or participating in a fundraising activity (e.g. participating in a charity walk or run to raise money, or holding a fundraising morning tea)</li> <li>b. the purchase of ribbons (or other small tokens) to be worn by staff</li> <li>c. the involvement of staff in volunteer work</li> <li>d. marketing and public relations support</li> <li>e. the purchase of a table at a fundraising event</li> </ol>

## POLICY STATEMENT

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (the ISJO) recognises the valuable contribution of charities and charitable organisations in the provision of services, support and fundraising for a range of community, environmental, cultural and economic initiatives.

From time to time the ISJO receives requests for support from charities including requests for endorsement and / or for financial or in-kind support. This Policy has been developed to ensure that these requests are considered in a transparent and equitable manner. This Policy also provides a framework for the Joint Organisation to identify how charity partners may be appointed and the types of charities that may be supported and endorsed.

In accordance with the Local Government Act (1993), any decision to support a charity by providing financial assistance must be approved by a resolution of the Joint Organisation Board if it is not part of an endorsed program under any Grants and Sponsorships Policy.

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Any other charity support and endorsement must be in accordance with this Policy.

### Criteria for support charities

To ensure that the Joint Organisation treats requests for charitable support consistently, the following criteria must be considered in all cases.

Priority will be given to supporting charities which:

- contribute toward a coordinated approach to service delivery and the development of responses to emerging social, cultural environmental or economic issues
- strengthen formal and informal support networks, reduce isolation and increase community participation and opportunities
- increase access to the achievement of basic rights for people with the greatest need
- promote a balanced debate aimed at achieving social harmony
- raise funds for a cause or organisation which is in keeping with the Joint Organisation's priorities and ethics
- raise funds for a cause or organisation experiencing exceptional circumstances involving genuine hardship including domestic or international humanitarian crises
- are reputable and not-for-profit
- provide a benefit or service to the people of our region
- are not for political purposes
- are not for overt activities that could be perceived as divisive within the community.

Any support is subject to the applicant meeting the definitions of charity and charitable purpose under the Charities Act 2013 (Cth). In the event that an official charity partner or charity being supported by the Joint Organisation no longer meets the criteria outlined in this policy, the support of this charity may be revoked.

### REPORTING

All charitable contributions will be notified by formal business paper report to the Joint Organisation Board.

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