**ACBM Policy – Child Protection**

**Introduction**

The ACBM’s policy on Child Protection can be found at: [www.acbm.org.au](http://www.acbm.org.au)

It applies to all its operatives working in Australasia and overseas. It is based on two guiding principles:

1. Zero tolerance of child abuse

2. Use of a risk management approach.

* **Zero tolerance of child abuse:** Child abuse is not tolerated by the ACBM, nor is possession of or access to child pornography. The ACBM will not knowingly engage, directly or indirectly, anyone who poses an unacceptable risk to children, nor fund any individual or group that does not meet the ACBM’s principle of zero tolerance of child abuse in their operations and activities.
* **Risk management approach:** While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of child abuse, adherence to the following Child Protection Code of Conduct can reduce the likelihood of child abuse being associated with ACBM activities. Fieldworkers, having signed their Fieldworker Application, agree with, understand and have affirmed their willingness to comply with the Child Protection Code of Conduct. In endorsing, a fieldworker application, the Recorder / Secretary of the fieldworkers’ ecclesia confirms that a valid current screening check has been performed in accordance with regulations in the area the fieldworker is resident and that there are no known issues in relation to the fieldworker’s suitability.

**Child Protection Code of Conduct**

(adapted from AusAID’s Child Protection Policy 2008 – available [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au))

As an ACBM Fieldworker I will:

* treat children with respect regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status;
* not use language or behaviour towards children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate;
* not engage children in any form of sexual activity or acts;
* wherever possible, ensure that another adult is present when working in the proximity of children;
* not invite unaccompanied children into my place of residence, unless they are at immediate risk of injury or in physical danger;
* not sleep close to unsupervised children unless absolutely necessary, in which case I must obtain my team leader’s permission, and ensure that another adult is present if possible;
* not use any computers, mobile phones, or video and digital cameras inappropriately, and never to exploit or harass children or to access pornography through any medium;
* refrain from physical punishment or discipline of children (excluding my own children);
* refrain from hiring children for domestic or other labour which is inappropriate given their age or developmental stage, which interferes with their time available for education and recreational activities, or which places them at risk of injury; and
* immediately report concerns or allegations of child abuse in accordance with the ACBM Child Protection Policy.