

Advocacy Policy	
Purpose	<p>RSL LifeCare (RSLLC)'s core charitable purpose, as defined in its Constitution, is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide benevolent relief to persons suffering from ill health, disability, infirmity, homelessness or financial hardship, in particular veterans and older people. To make aged care and retirement village accommodation, amenities and services available to persons in need. to do all things as may be incidental or ancillary or conducive to the attainment of the purposes. <p>To maintain its charitable status, RSLLC must apply its income and property only in furtherance of its charitable purpose.</p> <p>As a charity, RSLLC can legitimately speak on behalf of the groups of persons listed in its charitable purpose with relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of public policy; Promoting or opposing particular laws or policies; Promoting or opposing practices or decisions of Government; and Raising awareness of RSLLC's charitable purpose. <p>However, RSLLC will be disqualified from being a registered charity if it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engages in, or promotes, activities that are unlawful; engages in, or promotes, activities that are contrary to public policy and undermine Australia's system of governance, for example the Constitutional System, National Security or the safety of the public; or promotes or opposes a political party or candidate for political office. <p>RSLLC recognizes the importance of maintaining integrity and public confidence in RSLLC as an independent charitable institution.</p> <p>RSLLC also recognises the principle of political freedom, including free and open discussion of political ideas and opinions, and acknowledges the right of employees and Directors and other personnel (Personnel) to participate <i>as individuals</i> in the political process. Personnel who do so must at all times ensure that their participation does not give rise to any perception that they are advocating on behalf of RSLLC</p>
Application	<p>This Policy applies to all employees and Directors and other personnel engaged to work with RSLLC in the conduct of their duties).</p>

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<p>Policy Principles</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RSLLC maintains a position of impartiality with respect to party politics, and does not endorse any political party, elected member or candidate at any level of Government. 2. RSLLC’s policy is that Personnel must not make political donations using the Company’s resources. This includes any gift or payment for the benefit of a political party, elected member or candidate at any level of Government. 3. The prohibition on political donations is not intended to exclude Personnel from attending events at which a member of Government or political candidate is speaking or hosting which are of relevance to the core activities of RSLLC (in furtherance of its charitable purpose) and their role in the Company. Example: <i>Attending an event for a fee at which a Member of Parliament or local government is in attendance, including as a speaker, provided the purpose of your attendance is relevant to your role within RSLLC and Company’s charitable purpose and the fee payable is not excessive.</i> 4. Personnel must obtain the prior approval of the CEO (staff) or Chair (Directors and CEO) before paying a fee to any person which relates to an event hosted or sponsored by a political party or candidate. Relevant considerations as to whether to grant approval will include the size of the fee payable; the overriding purpose for making the payment (i.e. alignment to the company’s charitable purpose); the role of the relevant person within the Company, the timing of the event and any risk (actual or perceived) to the Company’s reputation or independence. 5. RSLLC may engage in advocacy and campaigning related to its charitable purpose by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to public policy debate • Promotion of, or opposition to, laws, policies, practices or decisions of Government, or • Awareness – raising and public education <p>on issues that affect aged care, retirement living and veteran welfare or are otherwise relevant to RSLLC fulfilling its charitable purpose.</p> 6. Personnel must be authorised by the Board to engage in advocacy and campaigning on an issue. When deciding whether to grant authorisation, the Board will exercise increased caution, noting that such advocacy may be viewed by the public as political association. The independence of RSLLC and its reputation will be considered before any advocacy or campaigning is undertaken in the name of RSLLC. 7. RSLLC respects the right of individuals to participate in the political process. This Policy does not restrict Personnel from having political views or associations (including membership of political parties, attendance at political events in their own time, or making political donations) when it is clearly communicated that this is in a personal capacity. 8. Personnel participating in political activities (including the making of political donations) must do so in such a manner that makes it clear that they are not representing RSLLC, and must not use the Company’s resources or rely on their standing within RSLLC to promote or engage in such activities. 9. Care should be taken by Personnel when engaging in online activities, including social media, if there is a risk that this activity will identify the Personnel as associated with or representing RSLLC.
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	<p>10. Examples of activities that are allowed or not allowed can be found at: https://www.acnc.gov.au/advocacy-charities</p>
Roles & Responsibilities	<p>1. All Personnel are to be familiar with this Policy and act in accordance with the Policy at all times. Executives and Directors must also promote awareness of this Policy to all Personnel. Personnel may be subject to disciplinary action if they do not comply with this Policy</p> <p>2. This Policy must be posted on the intranet</p> <p>3. This is a complex area for charities. All Executives and Directors are encouraged to read and be familiar with the ACNC Guide: <u>Charity Advocacy</u> found on the ACNC website; https://www.acnc.gov.au/advocacy-charities</p>
Policy Review	<p>This policy must be reviewed at the earlier of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a significant change in relevant legislation • in the event of a significant incident concerning the subject matter of the policy • the one-year anniversary of the last review.
Related documents and references	<p>1. Conflicts of Interests Policy (GP 02)</p> <p>2. Director's Gift Policy (GP 13)</p> <p>3. ACNC Guide: Gifts & Honorariums Guide</p> <p>4. ACNC Charity Advocacy Guide</p>