

IN-KIND DONATIONS & EQUIPMENT REPURPOSING ACTIVITY

Providing humanitarian aid through the provision of donated goods & equipment

RAWCS Regional Coordinators Meeting Report – 8th November 2020

As members are aware, the Donations in Kind 'Future Directions Committee' in consultation with the project's regional managers are currently reviewing the activity's current policies and procedures.

Whereas the status quo is to think "Donations in Kind", the reality is that we now have several projects providing in-kind donations and the repurposing of equipment including **Donations in Kind, Health & Education Equipment Repurposing Activity** and **MediShare** and other individual projects registered with RAWCS. So, an all-encompassing set of regulative documentation is the direction we are taking.

Donations In Kind – *Turning landfill into lifesaving aid dramatically and measurably improves social and environmental outcomes*, is a resource and a support service providing extensive services for Rotarians and other organisations, enabling them to undertake international and local projects efficiently and effectively within a regulative framework.

Health & Education Equipment Repurposing Activity - *A pathway to providing redundant 'end of life' health & education equipment to disadvantaged communities that face difficulties obtaining the affordable goods they need.* A brand that specifically defines the relevancy and purpose of achieving sustainability by placing equipment where it is needed and one which Rotarians, Governments, Corporates and the general public can connect and share with.

MediShare – *Sharing Sustainable Healthcare Solutions with Pacific Nations*, works with a range of partners, government & not-for-profit organisations, to add value to the infrastructure of health care in South Pacific developing nations through the provision and shipping of recovered usable medical equipment and resources.

Individual Projects – many Rotary clubs and other NGO's, under the banner of RAWCS collect and ship equipment to developing nations. RAWCS does not have general policies covering these activities providing in-kind donations. The only document in place, the 'Donations in Kind – Operations Manual' is specific to Donations in Kind and is currently out of date and does not cover all of the activities.

We are pleased to advise that the RAWCS Board of Directors has endorsed this direction as being a national approach for providing governance and operations guidelines for the activity, and provides a blueprint and regulative framework to establish, manage and operate in-kind donations and repurposing activities and other individual projects moving forward.

To date the Board has approved the following documents.

- In-kind Donations & Equipment Repurposing Activities – Compliance Policy
- In-kind Donations & Equipment Repurposing Activities – Operations Guidelines
- Terms of Reference – In-kind Donations & Equipment Repurposing Activity Committee

These documents will be available for downloading from the RAWCS website in due course.

The board also recognised the rationale for changing the Regional Supervisor title back to Regional Manager. The position clearly manages the activity, indeed, volunteers holding these positions are managers. Donations in Kind is a place of work and as such is regulated, to title them supervisors undermines their responsibilities.

A review of current projects data on RAWCS website has been carried out. On each Donations in Kind project registration page it currently states that the projects are sponsored by, e.g. "Rotary Club of RAWCS Eastern Region District 9675. This is misleading, apart from no such clubs there are several districts involved in each region. The Board has endorsed that this data should be amended to; **Sponsored by: RAWCS National**. This amendment will rectify this incorrect assertion.

Additional items the committee is reviewing and preparing amendments;

- The current on-line 'Container Activity Records' template is complicated and not user friendly. A much simpler version has been developed and this will be submitted to the website committee to replace the current program.
- The marketing & promotional material currently on the RAWCS website provides outdated information and low-resolution images. We are reviewing the website and preparing up to date information.
- The committee is developing templates and guidelines of promotional and marketing material with provision for each region to edit to suit, providing a consistent message and style guide for use of the brand.
- The committee is working on preparing a standard/consistent table of equipment 'goodwill values'.

KEITH ROFFEY - *National Manager*