

Fraud Prevention and Risk Management Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As a registered charity, One Mission Society Australia Inc (OMS) must ensure that its funds are used for its charitable purpose. Fraud can mean that charitable funds are directed away from the purpose of OMS and result in significant reputational risk.
- 1.2 Fraud involves an act of dishonesty where a person secures an unauthorised benefit. Examples of fraud include:
- individuals making “purchases” with charity monies with falsified invoices;
 - putting individuals on the payroll who are not providing services to the charity; or
 - a casual employee recording hours in excess of those actually worked on their timesheet.
- 1.3 OMS wants to promote consistent organisational behaviour by providing guidelines and assigning responsibilities for the development of fraud risk management controls and conduct of investigations.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to:
- ensure that all employees and volunteers are aware of their responsibilities regarding the identification and prevention of fraudulent activity;
 - ensure that all employees and volunteers understand who to report to in the event that they suspect fraudulent activity; and
 - provide a step-by-step guide to respond to an allegation regarding fraudulent activity.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and Board members of OMS.

4. Regulatory context

- 4.1 Board members are required to take reasonable steps to protect OMS’s assets and ensure funds are being used for OMS’ charitable purpose. The External Conduct Standards also expressly require OMS to take reasonable steps to minimise the risk of financial impropriety including fraud.
- 4.2 This Policy has been developed with regard to the ACNC Governance Standards and External Conduct Standards, the ACNC Guidance Protect Your

Policy number	Version
Drafted by	Approved by Board on
Responsible person	Scheduled Review Date

Charity from Fraud and Board members' statutory and common law obligations.

5. Responsibilities

5.1 It is the responsibility of the Board to ensure that:

- (a) fraud is prevented and detected within OMS;
- (b) OMS assesses and take steps to mitigate or remove risks;
- (c) appropriate and effective internal control systems are in place; and
- (d) any breaches of this policy that come to the attention of the Board are dealt with appropriately.

5.2 It is the responsibility of the CEO to ensure that:

- (a) this policy is implemented and compliance is monitored;
- (b) [Managers/Coordinators/Leaders] are aware of and understand the policy;
- (c) instances of fraud reported to the CEO are dealt with and investigated in accordance with this policy.

5.3 It is the responsibility of [Managers/Coordinators/Leaders] to ensure that they:

- (a) assess the risk of fraud within their area of control;
- (b) educate staff/volunteers/contractors about fraud prevention and detection; and
- (c) facilitate the reporting of suspected fraudulent activities.

6. Policy

6.1 OMS will not tolerate fraud in any aspect of its operations.

6.2 OMS will:

- (a) assess fraud-related risks and take mitigating steps;
- (b) educate board members, staff and volunteers on fraud prevention and detection;
- (c) have mechanisms for reporting of suspected fraudulent activity; and
- (d) respond to suspected fraudulent activity.

7. Fraud Risk Assessment

7.1 The Board must carry out an annual fraud risk assessment (**Annual Risk Assessment**) using an appropriate tool such as the "*Financial Abuse – Risk Assessment template document*" provided by the Australian Charities and Not-

Policy number	Version
Drafted by	Approved by Board on
Responsible person	Scheduled Review Date

for-profits Commission (**ACNC**). Found at <https://www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/manage-your-charity/governance-hub/governance-toolkit/governance-toolkit-financial>

7.2 The completed risk assessment may be conducted through a sub-committee, but must be reviewed by the full Board and tabled at a Board meeting for discussion.

7.3 The Board will:

- (a) assess and prioritise risks identified; and
- (b) approve any additional or amended controls to remove or lessen fraud-related risks.

7.4 The CEO must implement approved controls.

8. Education

8.1 The CEO will ensure that induction processes for employees, volunteers and Board members include training and education on this policy, fraud prevention, reporting and detection.

9. Reporting procedure

9.1 Reporting of fraud may be done in line with the Whistle-blower policy.

9.2 All staff/volunteers/contractors/board members have the responsibility to report suspected fraud.

9.3 Any staff member, volunteer or contractor who suspects fraudulent activity must immediately notify their supervisor or the CEO about the concern.

9.4 In situations where the staff member, volunteer or contractor notifies their supervisor, the supervisor must then notify the CEO (or the Chair of the Board in circumstances where the suspected fraud involves the supervisor or CEO).

9.5 Any person reporting a fraud, or suspected fraud, shall not be penalised for raising a concern of this nature.

10. Responding to suspected fraudulent activity

10.1 Upon notification an allegation pertaining to fraud, the CEO (or Chair of the Board) will promptly arrange to carry out an initial review into the allegation.

10.2 After an initial review and a determination that the suspected fraud warrants additional investigation, the CEO (or Chair of the Board) shall coordinate the investigation with the appropriate law enforcement officials or external investigator as deemed appropriate. Internal or external legal representatives will be involved in the process, as deemed appropriate.

10.3 Once a suspected fraud is reported, immediate action must be taken to prevent the theft, alteration or destruction of relevant records. Such actions include, but are not necessarily limited to, removing relevant records / information and

Policy number	Version
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placing them in a secure location, limiting access to the location where the records / information currently exists, and preventing the individual suspected of committing the fraud from having access to the records / information.

- 10.4 If an allegation of fraud is substantiated by the investigation, disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal (or termination of an individual's right to work as a contractor or volunteer), shall be taken by the appropriate level of management.
- 10.5 OMS will also pursue every reasonable effort, including Court ordered restitution, to obtain recovery of any losses from the offender.

11. Reporting fraud to authorities

- 11.1 The CEO (or the Chair of the Board) must notify the police or relevant law enforcement authority of any suspected criminal activity.

12. Fraud connected to third party programs

- 12.1 OMS pursues its charitable purposes in part through collaborating with a third party or third parties to deliver programs overseas.
- 12.2 OMS is required by the ACNC External Conduct Standards (**ECS**) to minimise the risk of financial impropriety, including fraud, by third parties collaborating with OMS outside of Australia.
- 12.3 As part of its ECS risk assessment, the Board must determine what level of oversight it requires in relation to fraud connected to third parties, with reference to matters including the:
 - (a) level of risk associated with the operations;
 - (b) relationship with the third party;
 - (c) fraud prevention and risk management controls within the third party; and
 - (d) consequences of fraud connected to overseas operations not being acted upon.
- 12.4 The Board must consider whether it is appropriate to:
 - (a) impose fraud prevention and risk management obligations on third parties through a Memorandum of Understanding or other agreement;
 - (b) offer training to third parties on fraud prevention and risk management;
 - (c) require third parties to produce a fraud prevention and risk management policy or procedure (or provide one for them to adopt); and/or
 - (d) implement [short name]'s own controls and monitoring systems to prevent and detect fraud in the third party's operations.

Policy number	Version
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13. Compliance with this policy

- 13.1 If the CEO or Board have reason to believe that this policy has not been complied with, they must investigate.
- 13.2 If it is found that a person has failed to comply with this policy, the Board or CEO may take action against them, including disciplinary action up to and including dismissal (or termination of an individual's right to work as a contractor or volunteer).

14. Related policies

- 14.1 Financial Management Policy
- 14.2 Whistleblowing policy

15. Authorisation

(Signed)

[Position]

On behalf of [Organisation]

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