

Donations and Fundraising

Policy and Guidelines

Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) and its subcommittees will act in accordance with the values and objectives of the organisation as stated in the vision, mission, constitution and policies.

DEA will:

- Comply with all relevant legislation.
- Not be influenced by vested interests.
- Use our expertise and resources responsibly and where we can have the greatest impact.

Donations and investment

- DEA may seek and accept donations and in-kind support from members, non-member individuals and other organisations.
- DEA may seek grants from organisations or bodies to further DEA objectives with reference to stated DEA vision, mission and policies.
- DEA will not knowingly accept significant donations:
 - from individuals, organisations or companies whose main purpose, or perceived purpose, is contrary to the stated DEA vision, mission and policies or;
 - in circumstances where accepting a donation would be detrimental to DEA, DEA's reputation and/or its objectives or;
 - in circumstances where accepting a donation would give rise to a significant or perceived conflict of interest for DEA.
- A member or group of members undertaking fundraising on behalf of DEA must not derive personal material benefit from a donation received by DEA.
- A donor has the right to public anonymity (in name and value of donation).
- DEA will seek to avoid investing financial resources with organisations or companies whose purpose is contrary to the stated DEA vision, mission and policies. This will be undertaken by Management Committee.
- DEA will report on income and expenses in a transparent manner, via the Annual Financial Report. DEA finances are independently audited annually.
- DEA thanks and respects donors, including their privacy. DEA will respect any request by members or potential donors to: decline to donate at any point in time and/or to limit frequency of communications.

Partnerships

- Will be independent of any political party but will be prepared to engage with any party in dialogue and advocacy.
- May seek to form partnerships, links, co-branding or joint statements with other organisations as appropriate. These may occur at a national or state level. Considerations include:
 - What is the proposed statement, action or partnership? Is it a single episode or does it signify an ongoing formal relationship?
 - What expertise does the other organisation hold?
 - Does the proposal stand up to scrutiny on the basis of scientific evidence?
 - What are the policies, vision and reputation of the other organisation?
 - Is it consistent with DEA policies and mission?
 - Would co-branding add or dilute effectiveness?

Decisions relating to this code of ethics will be determined by the DEA Management Committee as per the DEA Constitution.

Guidelines - FAQs for fundraising:

1. Where do the fundraising donations go? All fundraising donations go to the DEA Fund. Monies in the DEA Fund must be used only for the primary environmental objectives of DEA. By law, the fund must be managed by a committee independent of the DEA Management Committee. The DEA Fund is subject to an independent annual audit which is reported to the Governments Register of Environmental Organisations (REO) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC).
2. How are the fundraising donations used? The activities of DEA are highlighted in its annual report, which is available for viewing on the DEA website. Additionally, the DEA annual financial statement is a public document which can be accessed at the ACNC website.
3. Is my personal donation tax-deductible? Yes, if you have made a personal donation of \$2 or more, it should be eligible for a tax-deduction. If you have been fundraising on behalf of DEA and transferred the money, this is not a personal donation and therefore not tax-deductible. If desired, personal donations over \$5,000 may be claimed as a tax-deduction over a period of 5 years (maximum) once approval is obtained (for further information see: <https://www.ato.gov.au/forms/election-to-spread-gift-deduction/> or contact DEA directly to assist in this if required).
4. What is the difference between a donation and sponsorship? For a donation to be tax deductible under the REO, it must be given unconditionally and be used within the confines of DEA's objectives. There must be no pecuniary benefit to the donor. Sponsorship, where mutual benefits are obtained by DEA and the sponsoring partner, may be tax deductible under a different section of the income tax act. Financial advice should be obtained to check if this applies to you. Donations obtained from sponsorship must not be placed in the DEA Fund and must be reported separately.
5. Can I fundraise for a state DEA committee? No, not directly. State committees do not manage finances independently. All fundraising or donations are to be made to DEA directly. However, States are able to request funds for specific activities or projects.
6. How can I make a donation to DEA? Donations can be made via the website, Facebook page, by mail or via the GoFundraise portal.

7. Does DEA sell any merchandise? From time to time, DEA will make available for purchase merchandise for branding or fundraising purposes.
8. Can I fundraise on DEA's behalf? Fundraising activities may be undertaken by National or State DEA committees. Small groups and individuals may fundraise on behalf of DEA. In this case, authority should be sought from the state committee (chair or secretary) for small activities and from the Management Committee for larger activities, including use of the GoFundraise portal.
9. Can I use DEA logos? Permission to use any DEA branding or logos should be sought from the Administration Officer or the state committee (chair or secretary).
10. What are appropriate fundraising activities? Examples might include: sponsorship for a personal challenge eg mountain climb; cake stall; hosting a movie screening; charging for entry to an educational event. Examples which would not be considered appropriate include: a car rally; entering a fun run sponsored by a fossil fuel company.
11. What are my obligations when fundraising on behalf of DEA?
 - The purpose of the fundraising should clearly be stated, ie donations are made to DEA. Any promotional materials must be accurate and truthful, clearly identifying the organisation and the objectives of the activity.
 - Be aware of safety issues and any obligations such as food handling regulations; insurance requirements etc.
 - Keep records of any expenses, merchandise and incoming money.
 - Be aware of DEA Privacy Statement and Policy.
 - Be mindful of and act consistently with DEA policies.
 - Be able to direct interested parties to information about DEA and its activities, including resources available on the website such as aims, policies and Annual Report.
 - Clearly state whether you are a volunteer, employee or contractor of DEA.
 - Ensure that a donor is not subjected to undue influence, harassment or coercion.
 - Direct any money raised to the Administration Officer or via the website as soon as practicable, along with copies of records of the activity.

DEA Scientific Committee

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Prof Stephen Leeder AO

Prof Lidia Morawska

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Prof Stephen Boyden AM

Prof Michael Kidd AM

Prof Ian Lowe AO

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