



27 October 2021

Dear church leaders and mission leaders,

We trust this finds you well and encouraged in your particular ministry context. We are writing to inform you of the compliance requirements of the External Conduct Standards imposed on all ACNC not for profit organisations.

Since mid 2019 all Australian registered charities that are involved in overseas activities are required to comply with the ACNC External Conduct Standards as a condition of their ongoing registration as a charity. These standards are, except for standard 2, an example of principle-based regulation, rather than a set of prescriptive rules, and apply to all charities, including Basic Religious Charities such as a church. This means that each charity must determine what are “reasonable steps” to apply the principles in their own particular context. Compliance is not “black and white” but requires a considered application of the principles to each organisation.

As a member of Missions Interlink, WEC International has received resources developed by Moores Lawyers and Solicitors to assist with applying the External Conduct Standards to our organisation. Using these resources, the Board and executive staff of WEC International are conducting a thorough review of WEC International’s operations to implement processes and policies to ensure we are compliant with the ECS. This is a process that the whole sector has been working through since the ECS and ACNC guidance were released in July 2019.

Any overseas operations your Charity is involved with (which is most likely sending and supporting a missionary overseas) “through” WEC International, is most likely exempt from compliance with the ECS in respect of those activities operated through us. While your activity is most likely exempt, we cannot speak for your church or organisation and your own consideration of how the ECS will affect you is your responsibility.

In the event of further significant changes, we will do our best to keep you informed. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact us at the following address: alt@wec.com.au