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## ADARA GROUP WELCOMES ACFID INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Sydney, Australia

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Adara Group welcomes today's announcement by the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) on the commissioning of an independent review into the prevention of sexual misconduct. Together with other ACFID members, we have offered our full support for the review.

A team at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, with expertise in sexual assault, child protection and gender-based violence have been appointed to conduct the review and a final report is due in October this year.

The review will work to understand the current state of practice in the sector and identify areas for improvement.

The aim is to ensure that ACFID's member organisations:

- Provide a safe and trusted environment which safeguards all who have contact with the organisation including staff, volunteers, partner organisations and beneficiary communities from sexual misconduct;
- Set an organisational culture that prioritises safeguarding against sexual misconduct, so that it is safe for those affected to come forward and report incidents and concerns with the assurance they will be handled sensitively and appropriately; and
- Have robust safeguarding policies, procedures and measures in place that are shared and understood.

Reports of sexual misconduct in the international aid and development sector have been deeply concerning. Commenting on the review, Founder and Chair of the Adara Group, Audette Exel AO said "It is of paramount importance to the Adara Group that we follow and have best practice measures in place to prevent any form of sexual misconduct and we look forward to learning from the recommendations made in the final report. Child protection is also at the heart of all we do at the Adara Group, as it is with many of our colleagues in the international development sector. We can always do more and do better. All work done to make the world a safer place for children, no matter where they live, is critical to our humanity and to making the world a better place."

We adhere to local and international child protection and criminal laws and adherence to our policies is a mandatory requirement for all Adara Group Representatives including in-country partners.

Echoing the statements of ACFID CEO Marc Purcell, we are totally committed to safeguarding the people we seek to help and who we work alongside, and we will continue to work to ensure that we are meeting world's best practice when it comes to preventing and responding to sexual misconduct.

Our international development organisation Adara Development Australia is a member of ACFID and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct.

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### Media Enquiries

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