

## PROJECTS DECODING SOME TERMINOLOGY

The formal *Object of Rotary* is given expression in many ways, one of which is undertaking projects. Given the number of Rotary Clubs in the world and their diverse circumstances it is not surprising that a remarkable diversity of projects are undertaken. Given the experience of over 100 years of doing projects it is not surprising that lessons have been learned and processes developed to ensure projects are relevant, sustainable and hence beneficial to all concerned.

This has led to some practices and terminology that, while not limiting the innovation and flexibility of Clubs, give confidence of good outcomes. This note covers only terminology.

### **Single Club**

A high proportion of projects are single Club projects. The handout "Guide - Service Projects of Clubs in D9455" offers sound advice applicable to both single Club and multiple Club projects.

### **MultiClub**

MultiClub projects are encouraged in order to gain access to a wider array of skills and funds, thus enabling larger scale projects without straining the capability of a single Club. Arrangements for such multi-Club projects can be quite informal but in some cases a written Memorandum of Agreement is wise to set out the expectations and responsibilities of each participating Club. This is important for the accountability and transparency of financial aspects.

Such multi-Club projects can also cross District boundaries and remain fairly informal.

### **Multidistrict**

Some projects are of such a scale and longevity that RI sets out formal guidelines. These are set out in the *Rotary Code of Policies Article 21 Multidistrict Activities*. This can be downloaded from <https://my.rotary.org/en/document/rotary-code-policies> and go to Article 21.

The requirements for official Multidistrict designation are fairly onerous and in Australia very few are so designated. They include Australian Rotary Health, RAWCS and Rotarians Against Malaria.

Districts often encourage Clubs in their District to collaborate with Clubs in other Districts to plan and execute large projects. They are MultiClub projects that normally have a District committee to coordinate participating Clubs in the District. For example the Science & Engineering Challenge.

### **RI worldwide: Rotary Project Partnerships**

Open [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) click on MENU (three bars top left) then select About Rotary, then Partners.

The most well known of these are:

- Polio (the Global Polio Eradication Initiative), in which Rotary's Partners are: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the World Health Organisation, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.
- Disaster Relief (ShelterBox) in which Rotary's Partner is ShelterBox. ShelterBox headquarters is in the UK and has 20 international affiliates including ShelterBox Australia (see [www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au](http://www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au))
- Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (several partners and projects - see website shown above).

### **RI worldwide: Rotary Programs**

The term **Program** is applied only to some specific projects. Rotary's programs are developing the next generation of leaders, providing funding to make the world a better place, and making peace a priority. For information on Rotary Programs see [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) click on MENU (three bars at top left) then select Our Programs. There are seven Rotary Programs all directly coordinated or controlled by RI and require some action by Clubs.

They are:

- Rotary Peace Fellowships
- Rotary Community Corps
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
- Rotary Youth Exchange
- New Generations Service Exchange Grants Scholarships - there are two types:
  - \* Rotary Clubs offer scholarships for secondary, undergraduate, or graduate study.
  - \* The Rotary Foundation offers scholarships for college graduates and professionals to study peace and conflict resolution or water and sanitation.

For local information look in our District Directory under the program name of interest.

**Rotarian Action Groups** are an excellent way for experts in their field to share their expertise by collaborating with Clubs on projects. For example the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG) see [www.wasrag.org](http://www.wasrag.org) . Many Rotarian Action Groups have their own website and many publish a regular newsletter to which Rotarians can subscribe. Membership of the relevant Rotarian Action Group is worthwhile for the leader of a Club project. The full list of nearly 30 Rotarian Action Groups can be found at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) then sign on to MyRotary then find Join a Rotarian action Group by using the search facility. The list, flier, annual report, a presentation, and the directory with contacts for all the Rotarian Action Groups can be found there.

### **Avenues of Service**

As a convenience that assists Clubs and enables Rotarians to serve in the area they are most passionate about, Rotary divides “service” into the following five “avenues”:

- Club Service
- Vocational Service
- Community Service
- International Service
- Youth Service

Assistant Governors support Clubs in Club Service. A D9455 Committee is established to support Clubs in each of the other four above Avenues. Details in the D9455 Directory.

Although there are no “District Projects”, many projects require a District-wide committee to coordinate and run them. Other projects are national or international in scale and need a committee within the District to represent the project and manage local aspects. Details of these and their local committee chair are published in the District Directory.

Some projects initiated and grown by Rotary gain a successful life of their own, have their own board (which may or may not contain a Rotarian) but have Rotarian contacts listed in the District Directory. Examples include Foodbank and Probus.

### **Areas of Focus**

Recognising that focus on a few areas and doing them well will produce better results than trying to do a bit of everything, RI encourages us to focus on the following six areas:

- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and sanitation
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Economic and community development