



MELBOURNE BUDDHIST CENTRE  
ETHICS | MEDITATION | WISDOM

## **Promotion of Private Businesses Policy**

### **Background**

The Melbourne Buddhist Centre (MBC) is a community based, not for profit, incorporated association. Members of the Triratna Buddhist Order, supported by members of the Triratna Buddhist Community, provide a range of voluntary services at the MBC and under the auspices of the MBC including Dharma talks and study, the leading of retreats, pastoral care and events/workshops/services that are complimentary to the Dharma such as yoga, Breathworks, Focusing, Non Violent Communication, Compassionate Communication, arts workshops and retreat accommodation.

These events/workshops/services are clearly labelled and promoted as being part of the MBC program and are undertaken in accordance with MBC policies and procedures – including, but not limited to, the Practising with Children and Young People Policy, Ethical Guidelines for the Melbourne Buddhist Centre, Safeguarding at the MBC, Managing Disclosures of Sexual Abuse Policy and MBC Volunteer Policy.

There are members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and Community who may provide and charge fees for similar events/workshops/services privately outside of the MBC environment. Under particular circumstances these events/workshops/services may be considered to be “right livelihoods.” While earning a living through a “right livelihood” is encouraged by the Triratna Buddhist Community and is seen as an important part of living a Dharma life, it is important that there be clear boundaries between events/workshops/services that are undertaken as part of the Melbourne Buddhist Centre program and therefore in accordance with MBC policies and procedures, and events/workshops/services that are undertaken as part of a private concern.



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## **Purpose**

To balance the desire to support sustainable “right livelihood” businesses undertaken by members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and/or the Triratna Buddhist Community with the need to ensure that there is clarity about events/workshops/services that are part of the MBC program and therefore undertaken in accordance with MBC policies and procedures.

To minimise the possibility that private events/workshops/services promoted by members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and/or the Triratna Buddhist Community at the MBC or through MBC communications channels may be perceived as a conflict of interest or considered to be endorsed by the MBC.

## **Policy**

This policy applies to all members of the Triratna Buddhist Order, Triratna Buddhist Community and anyone attending the Melbourne Buddhist Centre who wishes to promote non-MBC events/workshops/services that are in alignment with the Three Jewels and the values of the Triratna Buddhist Community.

Following publication and communication of this policy, no MBC communications channels — e.g. face to face opportunities (teaching, study sessions, talks, retreats etc), digital media, written communications, email communications — can be used to promote non-MBC events/workshops/services without the approval of the MBC Committee. Permission can be sought by emailing the Secretary or the Chair of the MBC Committee.



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To maintain support for “right-livelihoods” and other non-MBC events/workshops/services that are in alignment with the Three Jewels and the values of the Triratna Buddhist Community, a separate Community Activities Notice Board (which clearly states that the information on the Board is not endorsed by the MBC), will be made available in the main meeting area of the MBC. Members of the Triratna Buddhist Order and/or Community will be able to post information promoting appropriate non-MBC events/workshops/services on the Board.

The MBC Committee can request removal of information posted on the Community Activities Notice Board that does not align with the Three Jewels and the values of the MBC and the Triratna Buddhist Community.

Material posted on the Community Activities Notice Board will be regularly reviewed to ensure it remains current and appropriate.

Ratified by the MBC Committee: 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2025