



HERBERT  
SMITH  
FREEHILLS

## Constitution

# Philanthropy Australia Constitution

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## Philanthropy Australia

Amended 20 May 2026



# Contents

## Table of contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Company's name</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Company's history</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Company's purpose</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Company's powers</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Not for profit</b>	<b>4</b>
	5.1 Application of the company's income and property.....	4
	5.2 Payments of directors fees.....	4
	5.3 Other payments to directors.....	4
<b>6</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>4</b>
	6.1 Members.....	4
	6.2 Honorary and Life Members.....	5
	6.3 Subscription fee.....	5
	6.4 Register.....	5
	6.5 When membership ceases.....	5
	6.6 Expulsion.....	6
<b>7</b>	<b>Liability and guarantee of member</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Winding up</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Deductible Gift Recipient status</b>	<b>7</b>
	9.1 Application of this rule.....	7
	9.2 Public Fund.....	7
	9.3 Records and financial statements.....	7
	9.4 Public Fund administration.....	7
	9.5 Winding up or revocation of deductible gift recipient endorsement.....	8
<b>10</b>	<b>Altering this constitution</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Accountability to members</b>	<b>8</b>
	11.1 Accountability to members.....	8
	11.2 Calling general meetings.....	9
	11.3 Notice of general meetings.....	9
	11.4 Changing, postponing or adjourning general meetings.....	10
	11.5 Quorum at general meetings.....	10
	11.6 General meetings by technology.....	10
	11.7 Chairperson of general meetings.....	11
	11.8 Decisions of the members.....	11
	11.9 Voting by show of hands or ballot.....	12
	11.10 Voting by proxy or representative.....	12
	11.11 Voting by written votes.....	13
<b>12</b>	<b>Directors</b>	<b>13</b>
	12.1 Appointing and removing directors.....	13
	12.2 Nomination of directors.....	14
	12.3 Retirement of directors by rotation.....	14
	12.4 Vacation of office.....	15
	12.5 Directors conflict of interest.....	15
	12.6 Powers and duties of directors.....	16



## Contents

12.7	Meetings of directors .....	16
12.8	Directors' meetings using technology .....	17
12.9	Quorum at meetings of directors .....	17
12.10	Chairperson of directors .....	17
12.11	Decisions of directors .....	18
12.12	Written resolutions of directors .....	18
12.13	Minutes of meetings and minutes of resolutions .....	18
12.14	Committees .....	18
12.15	Validity of acts.....	19
<b>13</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Indemnity and insurance</b>	<b>19</b>
14.1	Persons to whom the indemnity and insurance apply .....	19
14.2	Indemnity .....	19
14.3	Insurance.....	20
14.4	Savings.....	20
<b>15</b>	<b>Notices</b>	<b>20</b>
15.1	Notices by the company to members .....	20
15.2	Notices by the company to directors.....	20
15.3	Notices by member or directors to the company .....	20
15.4	Time of service .....	21
15.5	Other communications and documents .....	21
15.6	Notices in writing .....	21
<b>16</b>	<b>Definitions and interpretation</b>	<b>21</b>
16.1	Definitions.....	21
16.2	Interpretation .....	23
<b>17</b>	<b>Corporations Act and ACNC Act</b>	<b>23</b>

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# Constitution

## Philanthropy Australia

### A company limited by guarantee

#### 1 Company's name

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The name of the company is Philanthropy Australia.

#### 2 Company's history

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Philanthropy Australia Inc was incorporated as an incorporated association in Victoria in November 1987 as a peak body for philanthropists. In 2018, the members resolved to convert from an incorporated association to this company limited by guarantee to reflect its national reach and representation. The company is a continuation of the legal entity by operation of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*.

#### 3 Company's purpose

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The company's purpose is to advance philanthropy in Australia for public charitable benefit by, without limitation:

- (a) inspiring and supporting new philanthropists and the establishment of foundations supporting charities;
- (b) promoting the contribution of philanthropy and advancing public awareness of the work carried out by Australian philanthropists;
- (c) strengthening communication and partnerships between the philanthropic sector and the not-for-profit, business and government sectors;
- (d) providing information and resources, education and training to those seeking to understand, access and partner with the philanthropic sector;
- (e) consulting with and representing the interests of the philanthropic sector to Government, policy makers and others who have influence over the philanthropic sector in order to strengthen and grow the sector;
- (f) promoting strong and transparent governance in the philanthropic sector;
- (g) supporting philanthropists by providing training, information and development opportunities to foster best practice in giving and grant making for charitable purposes;
- (h) carrying out research and investigations; and
- (i) providing opportunities for networking and collaboration to increase the effectiveness of philanthropy.

## 4 Company's powers

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Solely for carrying out the company's purposes, the company may exercise all of the powers of a company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act.

## 5 Not for profit

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### 5.1 Application of the company's income and property

- (a) The company's income and property must be applied solely towards promoting the company's purposes.
- (b) No part of the income or property may be paid, transferred or distributed, directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus, or other profit distribution, to any member or director in their capacity as a member or director.
- (c) This rule 5 does not prohibit indemnification of, or payment of premiums on contracts of insurance for, any director to the extent permitted by law and this constitution.

### 5.2 Payments of directors fees

No directors fees may be paid to the directors.

### 5.3 Other payments to directors

All other payments to directors must be approved by the directors including, but not limited to:

- (a) out-of-pocket expenses incurred by a director in performing a duty as a director of the company; or
- (b) a service rendered to the company by a director in a professional or technical capacity or as an employee, other than in the capacity as a director of the company, where:
  - (1) the provision of the service has the prior approval of the directors; and
  - (2) the amount payable is not more than an amount that commercially would be reasonable payment for the service.

## 6 Membership

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### 6.1 Members

- (a) The members are the persons who the directors admit or have admitted to membership in accordance with this constitution and any membership policy adopted by the directors.
- (b) Every applicant for membership of the company must apply in the form and manner decided by the directors. The directors may set differing categories of membership and eligibility criteria in a membership policy.



- (c) After receipt of an application for membership, the directors must consider the application and decide whether to admit or reject the applicant. The directors need not give any reason for rejecting an application.
- (d) Every member agrees to comply with this constitution and support the purposes of the company set out in rule 3.

## 6.2 Honorary and Life Members

- (a) All Honorary Members and Life Members at the time of adoption of this constitution continue on the same terms.
- (b) Honorary Members are appointed by invitation at the discretion of the directors for a set period.
- (c) Life Members are appointed for life by invitation at the discretion of the directors.
- (d) The Honorary Members and Life Members have the same rights as members.

## 6.3 Subscription fee

- (a) An annual subscription fee may be decided by the directors, and notified to the members. No fees are payable by Honorary Members or Life Members.
- (b) The directors must notify all persons entered on the register of members of the amount and time for payment of any annual subscription fee and of any alteration to the annual subscription fee. Varying amounts may be applied as decided by the directors and made available to the members in a notice or a membership policy.
- (c) Where the annual subscription fee is not received:
  - (1) after one month of the due date, the directors may issue a written reminder notice to the member; and
  - (2) after one month of the written reminder notice, the member's right to receive notices of general meetings and the right to attend and vote at general meetings will be suspended.
- (d) The membership policy or another policy may set out other suspension of membership rights and privileges, and cessation of membership, where the annual subscription fee is not received.

## 6.4 Register

The company must maintain a register of members setting out the name, address, alternate electronic or other address (if any) for receipt of notices and date membership starts and ceases.

## 6.5 When membership ceases

A person immediately ceases to be a member if the person:

- (a) dies;
- (b) resigns as a member by giving written notice to the company;
- (c) becomes of unsound mind or the person is, or their estate is, liable to be dealt with in any way under a law relating to mental health;



- (d) becomes bankrupt or insolvent or makes any arrangement or composition with his or her creditors;
- (e) is expelled under rule 6.6;
- (f) becomes, if the directors so decide in their absolute discretion, an untraceable member because the person has ceased to respond or otherwise communicate with his or her Registered Address; or
- (g) ceases to be a member under rule 6.3(d).

## 6.6 Expulsion

- (a) The directors may by resolution expel a member from the company if, in their absolute discretion, they decide it is not in the interests of the company for the person to remain a member.
- (b) If the directors intend to consider a resolution under rule 6.6(a), at least one week before the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered, they must give the member written notice:
  - (1) stating the date, place and time of the meeting;
  - (2) setting out the intended resolution and the grounds on which it is based; and
  - (3) informing the member that he or she may attend the meeting and may give an oral or written explanation or submission before the resolution is put to the vote.

## 7 Liability and guarantee of member

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- (a) The liability of the members is limited to the amount of the guarantee given in rule 7(b).
- (b) Every member must contribute an amount not more than \$100 to the property of the company if it is wound up while the person is a member or within one year after the person ceases to be a member, for:
  - (1) payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before the time he or she ceased to be a member; and
  - (2) costs, charges and expenses of winding up.

## 8 Winding up

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- (a) If, on the winding up or dissolution of the company, any property remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, and after application of rule 9, this property must only be given or transferred to an entity that is charitable at law.
- (b) The identity of the entity referred to in rule 8(a) must be decided by the directors, or if the directors do not wish to decide or do not decide, it must be decided by the members by ordinary resolution at or before the time of winding up of the company and, if the members do not decide, by the Supreme Court of the state or territory in which the company is registered.

## 9 Deductible Gift Recipient status

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### 9.1 Application of this rule

This rule only applies if the company is a deductible gift recipient under ITAA97 and to the extent required by the Commissioner.

### 9.2 Public Fund

- (a) The company must invite the public to contribute to the company to support its purposes.
- (b) The company must maintain a public fund for its principal purpose to be known as Philanthropy Australia's Public Fund (**Public Fund**):
  - (1) to identify and record Gifts and Deductible Contributions;
  - (2) to identify and record any money received by the company because of those Gifts and Deductible Contributions; and
  - (3) that does not record any other money or property.
- (c) Receipts for Gifts or Deductible Contributions must state the:
  - (1) name and ABN of the company;
  - (2) name of the public fund;
  - (3) the date and amount (or value, if property) of the Gift or Deductible Contribution;
  - (4) the name of the donor or contributors;
  - (5) the fact that it was a Gift or Deductible Contribution (and if it was a Deductible Contribution, the relevant fundraising event and GST inclusive market value of the event or goods or services purchased).
- (d) The company must notify the Commissioner, as soon as practicable, of
  - (1) any changes to the purposes or the constitution; and
  - (2) any change to the name of the company.

### 9.3 Records and financial statements

- (a) The company must keep and maintain proper books of account and records (which are written up in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards and principles consistently applied) relating to all receipts and outgoings for the Public Fund and if required by the Commissioner maintain a separate bank account for the Public Fund.
- (b) For each financial year, the company must have financial statements (including a profit and loss account and balance sheet) prepared by a suitably qualified person (in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards and principles consistently applied) which detail the affairs of the company including Public Fund for that financial year.

### 9.4 Public Fund administration

- (a) The Public Fund must be administered by the directors. If there is not a majority of the directors who are Responsible Persons, the directors must delegate the



power to administer the Public Fund to a committee of at least 3 people, the majority of whom are Responsible Persons.

- (b) If at any time the requirement in rule 9.4(a) is not met, the board or committee must not exercise any discretion or power in respect to the administration of the public fund until the requirement is met, except to protect the Public Fund or in the case of urgency.

## **9.5 Winding up or revocation of deductible gift recipient endorsement**

- (a) Upon:
  - (1) the winding up of the company; or
  - (2) the company ceasing to be endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under the ITAA 97,whichever is earlier, any surplus funds in the Public Fund must be transferred to an entity:
  - (3) which is charitable at law; and
  - (4) gifts to which are deductible under Division 30 of the ITAA 97.
- (b) The identity of the entity referred to in rule 9.5(a) must be decided by the directors, or if the directors do not wish to decide or do not decide, it must be decided by the members by ordinary resolution at or before the time of winding up of the company and, if the members do not decide, by the Supreme Court of the state or territory in which the company is registered.

## **10 Altering this constitution**

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- (a) The company must not pass a special resolution altering the constitution, if, as a result, the company will cease to be a charity.
- (b) Any resolution purporting to alter or repeal the constitution so that the company would cease to be a charity will have no effect.

## **11 Accountability to members**

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### **11.1 Accountability to members**

- (a) The company must be accountable to the members within the terms of the law, including, as applicable, the Corporations Act, the ACNC Act and this constitution.
- (b) The directors may decide the manner in which the company will be accountable to the members and the manner in which they will provide an adequate opportunity for members to raise any concerns about the governance, activities and finances of the company.



## 11.2 Calling general meetings

- (a) The directors may convene a general meeting at such time and place as the directors think fit.
- (b) If members with at least 15% of the votes that may be cast at a general meeting make a written request to the company for a general meeting to be held for a proper purpose and with a valid resolution, the directors must:
  - (1) within 21 days of the members' request, give all members notice of a general meeting; and
  - (2) hold the meeting within 2 months of the members' request.
- (c) The members who make the request for a general meeting must:
  - (1) state in the request the resolution to be proposed at the meeting;
  - (2) sign the request; and
  - (3) give the request to the company.
- (d) The directors may not postpone or cancel a general meeting convened in response to a members requisition under rule (b) in accordance with rule 11.4 without the prior written consent of the persons who requisitioned or convened the meeting.

## 11.3 Notice of general meetings

- (a) At least 21 days' notice of every general meeting must be given in any manner authorised by rule 15 to each person who is at the date of the notice:
  - (1) a member;
  - (2) a director;
  - (3) the auditor of the company, if applicable.
- (b) A notice of a general meeting must:
  - (1) specify the date, time and place of the meeting;
  - (2) state the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting and if a special resolution is proposed, state the full terms of the special resolution; and
  - (3) specify any details of voting such as proxies, written voting or other methods, if any, as decided by the directors.
- (c) A person may waive notice of a general meeting or consent to shorter notice by written notice to the company.
- (d) The non-receipt of notice of a general meeting or proxy form by, or a failure to give notice of a general meeting or a proxy form to, any person entitled to receive notice of a general meeting does not invalidate anything done or resolution passed at the general meeting if:
  - (1) the non-receipt or failure occurred by accident or error; or
  - (2) before or after the meeting, the person has notified or notifies the company of that person's agreement to that thing or resolution.
- (e) A person's attendance at a general meeting waives any objection that person may have to:

- (1) a failure to give notice, or the giving of a defective notice, of the meeting unless, at the beginning of the meeting, the person objects to the holding of the meeting; and
- (2) the consideration of a particular matter at the meeting which is not within the business referred to in the notice of the meeting, unless the person objects to considering the matter when it is presented.

#### **11.4 Changing, postponing or adjourning general meetings**

- (a) The directors may change the venue for, postpone, adjourn or cancel a general meeting if:
  - (1) they reasonably consider that the meeting has become unnecessary;
  - (2) the venue would be unreasonable or impractical;
  - (3) a change is necessary in the interests of conducting the meeting efficiently; or
  - (4) a quorum is not present under rule 11.5.
- (b) No business may be transacted at any adjourned meeting except the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- (c) Where a meeting is adjourned for 30 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as for an original meeting.
- (d) Except as provided by rule 11.4(c), it is not necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.

#### **11.5 Quorum at general meetings**

- (a) No business may be transacted at a general meeting, except the election of a chairperson and the adjournment of the meeting, unless a quorum of members is present when the meeting proceeds to business.
- (b) A quorum consists of at least 10 members entitled to vote and be present at the meeting. A person may only be counted once even if a person is a representative or proxy of more than one member.
- (c) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for a general meeting the meeting stands adjourned to the day, and at the time and place, that the directors decide or, if the directors do not make a decision, to the same day in the next week at the same time and place.
- (d) If at the adjourned meeting under rule 11.5(c), a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting must be dissolved.

#### **11.6 General meetings by technology**

- (a) The simultaneous linking together by telephone or other electronic means of a sufficient number of the members in person, to constitute a quorum constitutes a meeting of the members, provided each member has a reasonable opportunity to participate at the meeting.
- (b) All the provisions in this constitution relating to meetings of the members apply, as far as they can, with any necessary changes, to meetings of the members by telephone or other electronic means.



- (c) A member who takes part in a meeting by telephone or other electronic means is taken to be present in person at the meeting.
- (d) A meeting by telephone or other electronic means is taken as held at the place decided by the chairperson of the meeting, as long as at least one of the members involved was at that place for the duration of the meeting.

### **11.7 Chairperson of general meetings**

- (a) The chairperson of directors must preside as chairperson at a general meeting if present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting and willing to act.
- (b) If there is no chairperson of directors or both the conditions in rule 11.7(a) have not been met, the members present must elect another chairperson of the meeting.
- (c) A chairperson elected under rule 11.7(b) must be:
  - (1) another director who is present and willing to act; or
  - (2) if no other director present at the meeting is willing to act, a member who is present and willing to act.
- (d) A question arising at a general meeting relating to the order of business, procedure or conduct of the meeting must be referred to the chairperson of the meeting, whose decision is final.
- (e) Where the votes on a proposed resolution are equal the chairperson may exercise a second or casting vote.

### **11.8 Decisions of the members**

- (a) Every member has one vote.
- (b) The directors may decide the manner in which voting is held at a meeting or, where a meeting is not required, by postal, electronic or any other means of voting.
- (c) Subject to this constitution, each member entitled to vote at a meeting of members may vote as decided by the directors:
  - (1) in person or, where a member is a body corporate or a trust with more than one trustee, by its representative;
  - (2) by one proxy (if permitted); or
  - (3) by written vote (if permitted).
- (d) A proxy (if any) or representative is entitled to a separate vote for each member the person represents, in addition to any vote the person may have as a member in his or her own right.
- (e) If the directors decide, written voting may be permitted in addition to or instead of proxy voting. The directors must decide the manner written votes are to be given.
- (f) An objection to the qualification of a person to vote must be:
  - (1) raised before the vote objected to is counted; and
  - (2) referred to the chairperson, whose decision is final.



- (g) A vote not disallowed by the chairperson under rule 11.8(f) is valid for all purposes.
- (h) Except where by law a resolution requires a special majority, resolutions must be decided by a majority of the votes cast by the members.

### **11.9 Voting by show of hands or ballot**

- (a) A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless, before the vote is taken or before or immediately after the declaration of the result of the show of hands, a ballot (poll) is demanded by:
  - (1) the chairperson of the meeting;
  - (2) at least 2 members present and with the right to vote on the resolution.
- (b) A demand for a ballot does not prevent a general meeting continuing to transact any business except the question on which the ballot has been demanded.
- (c) Unless a ballot is duly demanded, a declaration by the chairperson of a general meeting that a resolution has on a show of hands been carried or lost and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of the company's proceedings, is conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.
- (d) If a ballot is duly demanded at a general meeting, it must be taken in such manner, and either at once or after an interval or adjournment or otherwise, as the chairperson of the meeting directs. The result of the ballot is the resolution of the meeting at which the ballot was demanded.
- (e) A ballot demanded at a general meeting on the election of a chairperson of the meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately.
- (f) The demand for a ballot may be withdrawn.

### **11.10 Voting by proxy or representative**

- (a) A member may appoint by written notice to the company, a proxy, and an incorporated member (a body corporate) or trust with more than one trustee, may appoint a proxy or a representative, to attend meetings and vote on behalf of the member. The proxy does not need to be a member of the company.
- (b) Unless otherwise provided in the written appointment, the appointment of a proxy or representative will give the proxy or representative the power:
  - (1) to agree to a meeting being convened by shorter notice than is required by law or by this constitution;
  - (2) to vote on any amendment to the proposed resolutions and on any motion that the proposed resolutions not be put or any similar motion;
  - (3) to vote on any procedural motion, including any motion to elect the chairperson, to vacate the chair or to adjourn the meeting; and
  - (4) to ask questions and other customary actions at a meeting.
- (c) The written appointment of a proxy or representative may direct the proxy or representative how to vote in respect of a particular resolution and, where this is provided, the proxy or representative is not entitled to vote on the proposed resolution except as directed in the appointment.



- (d) Unless the directors otherwise agree, a proxy or representative may not vote at a general meeting or adjourned meeting or on a ballot unless a written appointment is:
  - (1) received in the manner specified for that purpose in the notice convening the meeting before the time specified in the notice;
  - (2) in the case of an adjourned meeting, provided to the secretary at the adjourned meeting.
- (e) The appointment of a proxy is not revoked by the individual member appointer attending and taking part in the general meeting but, if the appointer votes on a resolution, the person acting as proxy for the appointer is not entitled to vote as the appointer's proxy on the resolution.

### **11.11 Voting by written votes**

- (a) The directors may decide that, at any general meeting, a member who is entitled to attend and vote on a resolution at that meeting is entitled to a written vote in respect of that resolution. A 'written vote' is a vote submitted by a member by giving notice to the company for or against the identified resolution.
- (b) The directors may decide the procedures in relation to written voting, including specifying the form, method and timing of giving a written vote at a meeting.
- (c) A person who has cast a written vote is entitled to attend a meeting. If a member attempts to cast more than one vote on a particular resolution, the vote cast in person prevails over the written vote.

## **12 Directors**

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### **12.1 Appointing and removing directors**

- (a) The directors will be those persons who were council members immediately before the adoption of this constitution.
- (b) The minimum number of directors is 4. The maximum number of directors is to be fixed by the directors, but may not be more than 15, unless the company in general meeting resolves otherwise. The directors must not fix a maximum which is less than the number of directors in office at the time.
- (c) Subject to 12.1(d), the directors may appoint any individual as a director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing directors, provided:
  - (1) the number of directors does not exceed the maximum number fixed under rule 12.1(a);
  - (2) before appointing the director, that individual signs a consent to act as a director; and
  - (3) the individual is not disqualified from managing a corporation under the Corporations Act nor disqualified from being a responsible entity under the ACNC Act.
- (d) Each director must be a member or representative of a member, at the time of appointment or election, and the majority of directors must be Funders or representatives of Funders.



## 12.2 Nomination of directors

- (a) Nominations of candidates for election as directors will be called for at least 45 days prior to the election of directors. The notice calling for nominations must list those directors ceasing to be directors and whether they are standing for re-election, the maximum number of directors fixed under rule 12.1(b), and the date the nominations must be received by the secretary.
- (b) The nominations must be:
  - (1) for a candidate who is eligible under rule 12.1(d);
  - (2) made in writing, signed by two members, other than the candidate;
  - (3) accompanied by a short biographical statement including information required from the directors about the candidate, and the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and
  - (4) delivered to the secretary before the date notified.

## 12.3 Retirement of directors by rotation

- (a) The directors must hold an election each financial year in accordance with this rule. Elections may take place at a general meeting or by ballot.
- (b) The term of office of a director is as follows:
  - (1) A term of a director elected under rule 12.3(a) is 3 years;
  - (2) A director, other than an executive director, appointed by the directors under rule 12.1(c) holds office only until the conclusion of the next election following her or his appointment.
- (c) A director retiring from office is eligible for re-election subject to a maximum term of 9 years, unless the maximum term is varied for a particular director by the directors. The chairperson may remain on the board of directors for a further term of up to 3 years, as the directors decide.
- (d) After a break of at least 1 year from ceasing to be a director, a person who has served the maximum term is able to be re-appointed and re-elected.
- (e) The retirement of a director from office and the re-election of the director or the election of another person to that office (as the case may be) takes effect on the date notified by the directors.

## 12.4 Vacation of office

The office of a director becomes vacant:

- (a) in the circumstances outlined in the Corporations Act;
- (b) if the director becomes of unsound mind or a director is, or their estate is, liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;
- (c) if the director is removed from office by resolution of the members;
- (d) if the director is disqualified from managing a corporation under the Corporations Act or disqualified from being a responsible entity under the ACNC Act;
- (e) except to the extent of a leave of absence granted by the directors, if the director fails to attend at least 3 consecutive meetings of the directors or at least



- 4 meetings over a period of 365 days;
- (f) if the director resigns by written notice to the company;
  - (g) if the director is an executive director, when she or he ceases to be employed as an executive;
  - (h) if the director ceases to be a member, or, if when appointed or elected, the director was a representative of a member, if the member she or he represented ceases to be a member;
  - (i) if, when appointed or elected, the director was a representative of a member, when the director ceases to be a representative of that member; or
  - (j) if the director is appointed for a specific term of office and is not reappointed.

## 12.5 Directors conflict of interest

- (a) A director must disclose a perceived or actual material conflict of interest to the other directors.
- (b) Unless the directors otherwise decide and where permitted by law, a director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a directors' meeting must not:
  - (1) be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; or
  - (2) vote on the matter.
- (c) The directors may make a policy or rules relating to disclosure of interests and subsequent requirements of the directors. Any policy or rules will bind all directors. An act, transaction, agreement, instrument, resolution or other thing with a third party is not invalid or voidable only because a director fails to comply with the policy or rules.
- (d) A director is not disqualified from contracting or entering into an arrangement with the company as vendor, purchaser or in another capacity, merely because the director holds office as a director or because of the fiduciary obligations arising from that office.
- (e) A contract or arrangement entered into by or on behalf of the company in which a director is in any way interested is not invalid or voidable merely because the director holds office as a director or because of the fiduciary obligations arising from that office.
- (f) A director who is interested in an arrangement involving the company is not liable to account to the company for any profit realised under the arrangement merely because the director holds office as a director or because of the fiduciary obligations arising from that office, provided that the director complies with applicable disclosure requirements under this constitution, any policy or rules adopted by the directors, and under the Corporations Act and ACNC Act regarding that interest.
- (g) A director may hold any other office or position (except auditor) in the company or related body corporate in conjunction with his or her directorship and may be appointed to that office or position on terms (including remuneration and tenure) that the directors decide.

## 12.6 Powers and duties of directors

- (a) The directors are responsible for carrying out the company's purposes set out in rule 3 and for managing the company's affairs to further the purposes.
- (b) The directors may exercise all the company's powers which are not required, by the Corporations Act or by this constitution, to be exercised by the members in a general meeting.
- (c) The directors must ensure they are aware of, and comply with their duties as



directors.

- (d) The directors must ensure the company's financial affairs are managed in a responsible manner, including:
  - (1) maintaining financial records that correctly record and explain its transactions and financial performance, and enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared annually;
  - (2) deciding how payments are to be approved or executed by or on behalf of the company; and
  - (3) ensuring the company does not continue to operate while insolvent.
- (e) The directors may delegate any of their powers and functions to one or more of the directors, a committee, an employee, or agent or other person as the directors decide.

## 12.7 Meetings of directors

- (a) The directors may meet and adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit.
- (b) A director may call a meeting of the directors by giving reasonable notice to the other directors, or by the secretary giving notice of the meeting to all directors.
- (c) A notice of a meeting of directors:
  - (1) must specify the time and place of the meeting;
  - (2) need not state the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting;
  - (3) may be given immediately before the meeting; and



- (4) may be given in any way authorised by rule 15.2.
- (d) The non-receipt of notice of a meeting of directors by, or a failure to give notice of a meeting of directors to, a director does not invalidate any thing done or resolution passed at the meeting if:
  - (1) the non-receipt or failure occurred by accident or error;
  - (2) the director has waived or waives notice of that meeting before or after the meeting;
  - (3) the director has notified or notifies the company of his or her agreement to that thing or resolution personally or by post, telephone, email or other electronic means before or after the meeting; or
  - (4) the director attended the meeting.

### **12.8 Directors' meetings using technology**

- (a) The simultaneous linking together by telephone or other electronic means of a sufficient number of the directors to constitute a quorum constitutes a meeting of the directors. All the provisions in this constitution relating to meetings of the directors apply, as far as they can and with any necessary changes, to meetings of the directors by telephone or other electronic means.
- (b) A director who takes part in a meeting by telephone or other electronic means is taken to be present in person at the meeting.
- (c) A meeting by telephone or other electronic means is taken as held at the place decided by the chairperson of the meeting, as long as at least one of the directors involved was at that place for the duration of the meeting.
- (d) If, before or during the meeting, a technical difficulty occurs which means that one or more directors cease to participate, the chairperson may adjourn the meeting until the difficulty is remedied or may, if a quorum of directors remains present, continue with the meeting.

### **12.9 Quorum at meetings of directors**

- (a) No business may be transacted at a meeting of directors unless a quorum of directors is present at the time the business is dealt with.
- (b) A quorum consists of a majority of the directors, or at least 4 directors, whichever is the greater number.
- (c) If the number of directors in office at any time is not sufficient to constitute a quorum, or is less than the minimum number of directors fixed under this constitution, the remaining directors must act as soon as possible to appoint additional directors, as required, and, until that has happened, may only act if and to the extent that there is an emergency requiring them to act.

### **12.10 Chairperson of directors**

- (a) The directors may elect one of the directors as chairperson of directors and may decide the period for which that director is to be the chairperson.
- (b) The chairperson of directors must preside as chairperson at each meeting of directors if present within 10 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting and willing to act.



- (c) If there is no chairperson of directors or the conditions in rule 12.10(b) have not been met, the directors present must elect one of the directors as chairperson of the meeting.

### **12.11 Decisions of directors**

- (a) A directors' resolution at a directors' meeting must be decided by a majority of votes cast by the directors present. Such a decision is for all purposes a decision of the directors.
- (b) Where the votes on a proposed resolution are equal the chairperson of the meeting may exercise a second or casting vote.

### **12.12 Written resolutions of directors**

- (a) A resolution is taken to have been passed by a meeting of directors if:
  - (1) all the directors who would be entitled to receive notice of a meeting and to vote on a resolution are given a document setting out that resolution; and
  - (2) all the directors sign or consent to the resolution.
- (b) A director may consent to a resolution by:
  - (1) signing the document containing the resolution (or a copy of that document);
  - (2) giving to the company written notice (including by email or other electronic means) addressed to the secretary or to the chairperson agreeing to the resolution and either setting out its terms or otherwise clearly identifying them; or
  - (3) telephoning the secretary or the chairperson of directors and signifying assent to the resolution and clearly identifying its terms.
- (c) The resolution is taken as passed when the last director signs or consents to that resolution.

### **12.13 Minutes of meetings and minutes of resolutions**

- (a) The directors must ensure:
  - (1) minutes of general meetings, directors' meetings and committee meetings (including all resolutions proposed); and
  - (2) records of resolutions passed by members, directors and committees, without a meeting,are recorded and kept as part of the company's records. The records must be made within one month after the relevant meeting is held or written resolution passed.
- (b) The minutes of a meeting must be signed within a reasonable time by the chairperson of the meeting or the chairperson of the next meeting.

### **12.14 Committees**

- (a) The directors may delegate any of their powers to one or more committees consisting of the number of directors and others as they think fit.



- (b) A committee to which powers have been delegated must exercise those powers delegated in accordance with directions given by the directors.
- (c) Provisions of this constitution that apply to meetings and resolutions of directors apply, as far as they can, with any necessary changes, to meetings and resolutions of a committee of directors.

### **12.15 Validity of acts**

An act done by a person acting as a director, a meeting of directors, or a committee of directors attended by a person acting as a director, is not invalidated merely because of one of the following circumstances, if that circumstance was not known by that person, the directors or the committee (as applicable) when the act was done:

- (a) a defect in the appointment of the person as a director;
- (b) the person being disqualified as a director or having vacated office; or
- (c) the person not being entitled to vote.

## **13 Secretary**

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- (a) The directors must appoint at least one secretary, who may also be a director.
- (b) The secretary must provide written consent to the appointment.
- (c) The secretary can be removed by the directors, and another person appointed as secretary, at any time.

## **14 Indemnity and insurance**

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### **14.1 Persons to whom the indemnity and insurance apply**

The indemnity and insurance referred to in this rule 14 applies to Indemnified Officers.

### **14.2 Indemnity**

- (a) The company must indemnify, on a full indemnity basis and to the full extent permitted by law, each Indemnified Officer against all losses or liabilities (including costs and expenses) incurred by the person as an officer of the company.
- (b) This indemnity:
  - (1) is a continuing obligation and is enforceable by an Indemnified Officer even though that person has ceased to be an officer of the company;
  - (2) is enforceable without that person having first to incur any expense or make any payment; and
  - (3) operates only to the extent that the loss or liability in question is not covered by insurance.



### **14.3 Insurance**

The company may, to the extent permitted by law:

- (a) purchase and maintain insurance; or
- (b) pay or agree to pay a premium for insurance,

for any Indemnified Officer against any liability incurred by the person as an officer of the company where the directors consider it appropriate to do so.

### **14.4 Savings**

Nothing in this rule 14:

- (a) affects any other right or remedy that an Indemnified Officer may have in respect of any loss or liability referred to in this rule 14; or
- (b) limits the capacity of the company to indemnify or provide or pay for insurance for any person to whom this rule 14 does not apply.

## **15 Notices**

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### **15.1 Notices by the company to members**

The company may give notices and any communication, including a notice of general meeting to a member:

- (a) personally;
- (b) by sending it by post to the address for the member in the register of members or the alternative address (if any) nominated by the member; or
- (c) by sending it to the email or other electronic address (if any) (including providing a URL link to any document or attachment) nominated by the member; or
- (d) by notifying the member by email or other electronic means, that the notice or communication or publication is available at a specified electronic address.

### **15.2 Notices by the company to directors**

Subject to this constitution, a notice may be given by the company to any director by:

- (a) serving it personally at the director's usual residential or business address;
- (b) sending it by post in a prepaid envelope to the director's usual residential or business address; or
- (c) sending it to the email or other electronic address supplied by the director to the company for giving notices.

### **15.3 Notices by member or directors to the company**

Subject to this constitution, a notice may be given by a member or director to the company by:

- (a) serving it on the company at the registered office of the company;



- (b) sending it by post in a prepaid envelope to the registered office of the company; or
- (c) sending it to the principal electronic address of the company at its registered office, or if there is no principal electronic address, to the email or other electronic address of the secretary.

#### 15.4 Time of service

- (a) A notice from the company properly addressed and posted is taken to be served at 10.00am on the day that is two Business Days after the date it was posted.
- (b) Where the company sends a notice by email or other electronic transmission, the notice is taken as served at the time the email or electronic transmission is sent.
- (c) If service under rules 15.4(a) or 15.4(b) is on a day which is not a Business Day or is after 4.00pm (addressee’s time), the notice is regarded as having been received at 9.00am on the next following Business Day.

#### 15.5 Other communications and documents

Rules 15.1 to 15.4 (inclusive) apply, as far as they can, with any necessary changes, to the service of any communication or document.

#### 15.6 Notices in writing

A reference in this constitution to a written notice includes a notice given by electronic transmission or any other form of written communication. A signature to a written notice need not be handwritten.

### 16 Definitions and interpretation

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#### 16.1 Definitions

The meanings of the terms used in this constitution are set out below.

Term	Meaning
<b>ACNC Act</b>	the <i>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012</i> (Cth).
<b>Business Day</b>	Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding New Years’ Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
<b>Commissioner</b>	the Commissioner of Taxation, a Second Commissioner of Taxation or a Deputy Commissioner of Taxation for the purposes of ITAA 97



<b>Corporations Act</b>	the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth).
<b>Deductible Contribution</b>	a voluntary transfer of money or property in relation to an eligible fundraising event as described in item 7 or item 8 of the table in section 30-15 of the ITAA 97.
<b>financial year</b>	means the period of 12 months ending on 30 June, or such other period as directors determine in accordance with applicable law.
<b>Funder</b>	a person or entity that, in the directors' opinion, demonstrates a contribution to the community through giving of money or property that is generally planned and ongoing.
<b>Gift</b>	a voluntary transfer of money or property (including financial assets such as shares) where the donor receives no material benefit or advantage as described in item 1 of the table in section 30-15 of the ITAA 97.
<b>Indemnified Officer</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 each person who is or has been a director or executive officer of the company; and</li><li>2 any other officers or former officers of the company as the directors in each case decide.</li></ol>
<b>ITAA 97</b>	the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (Cth).
<b>Registered Address</b>	a member's addresses (including any alternate or electronic addresses) as notified to the company by the member and recorded in the company's records.
<b>Responsible Person</b>	an individual who: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 performs a significant public function;</li><li>2 is a member of a professional body having a code of ethics or rules of conduct;</li><li>3 is officially charged with spiritual functions by a religious institution;</li><li>4 is a director of a company whose shares are listed on the Australian Securities Exchange;</li><li>5 has received formal recognition from government for services to the community;</li><li>6 is an individual before whom a statutory declaration may be made; or</li><li>7 is approved as a Responsible Person by the Commissioner.</li></ol>



## 16.2 Interpretation

In this constitution:

- (a) references to notices include formal notices of meeting, all documents and other communications from the company to its members;
- (b) a reference to any legislation includes all delegated legislation made under it and amendments, consolidations, replacements or re-enactments of any of them;
- (c) a word or expression defined or used in the Corporations Act, covering the same subject, has the same meaning in this constitution;
- (d) a reference to a member present at a general meeting is a reference to a member present in person or by proxy, attorney or representative;
- (e) a reference to writing and written includes printing, lithography, electronic means of writing (eg fax, email) and other ways of representing or reproducing words in a visible form;
- (f) the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular; and
- (g) headings and bold type are used for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this constitution.

## 17 Corporations Act and ACNC Act

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- (a) The replaceable rules set out in the Corporations Act do not apply to the company.
- (b) If at any time, the company is not a registered charity under the ACNC Act, the Corporations Act applies and (unless it is a replaceable rule) overrides any part of this constitution, or policy of the company, which is inconsistent with the Corporations Act.