# constitution of the Eaton Combined Playgroup Association Incorporated

ABN 84 926 849 058



An association incorporated pursuant to the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)

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#### **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

# 1. Name (M)(C)(R)

The name of the association is Eaton Combined Playgroup Association Incorporated and shall be called the Eaton Family Centre.  ${}^{(M)(C)(R)}$ 

# 2. Type of entity (GP)

The association is a not-for-profit association incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act* 2015 (WA). <sup>(GP)</sup>

#### 3. Definitions (R)(GP)(R)

In this Constitution, unless the contrary intention appears, words and phrases have the following meaning:

- (a) **ACNC** means the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. (C)
- (b) ACNC Act means the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth). (C)
- (c) Administrative Tribunal means the State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia.
- (d) Annual General Meeting means a general meeting of members called under clause 14.4.
- (e) **Associate member** means a member who has no right to vote but has all other rights of members as determined by the committee or by the members at a general meeting.
- (f) **Association** means Eaton Combined Playgroup<sup>(M)</sup> Incorporated and shall be called the Eaton Family Centre.
- (g) Associations Act 2015 means the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA).
- (h) **Association's books** means the association's registers, minutes, documents, securities, financial records, financial statements and financial reports as defined in Section 62 of the Associations Act, however compiled, stored or recorded.
- (i) Association's regulations means the regulations made under the Associations Act (if any).
- (j) **By-laws** mean any additional arrangements or processes adopted by members by ordinary resolution to supplement this constitution. (O)
- (k) **Chairperson** means the person elected by the committee to hold this office.
- (I) Charitable Collections Act means the Charitable Collections Act 1946 (WA).
- (m) Circular resolution, which may be a member's circular resolution or a committee circular resolution, means a resolution that is passed without a face-to-face general meeting or committee meeting being held. Separate copies of the circular resolution may be used for signing by members or committee members provided the wording of the circular resolution and statement is identical in each copy. The circular resolution is passed when the last member or committee member signs the circular resolution.
- (n) Clause means a clause of this constitution.
- (o) Commissioner means the person designated as the Commissioner from time to time under the Associations Act, currently the Executive Officer of the Western Australian Department of Commerce.
- (p) Committee means the group of people, under the term of Management Committee, who are responsible for the management of the affairs of the association as provided for in these Rules of Association.
- (q) **Committee Meeting** means a meeting of the Management Committee.
- (r) **Constitution** means this document as amended from time to time.
- (s) Corporations Act means the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).
- (t) **Department** means the Western Australian government department principally assisting with the administration of the Associations Act, currently the Western Australian Department of Commerce.
- (u) **Family Centre** means the Eaton Family Centre situated at Charterhouse Street, Eaton, Western Australia.

#### (v) Financial records means:

- (i) Invoices, receipts, orders for the payment of money, bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes and vouchers,
- (ii) Documents of prime entry such as sales day books, purchase day books, sales returns day books, purchases returns day books, bank books, cash receipts books, cash payments books, petty cash receipts books, petty cash payments books and journals, and
- (iii) Working papers and other documents needed to explain:
  - (A) The methods by which financial statements are prepared, and
  - (B) Adjustments to be made in preparing financial statements.
- (w) **Financial report** refers to the financial report for a financial year of a tier 1, 2 or 3 <sup>(O)</sup> association and comprises:
  - (i) The financial statements for the financial year of a tier 1, 2 or 3 (O) association,
  - (ii) The notes to the financial statements for the financial year of a tier 1, 2 or 3  $^{(O)}$  association, and
  - (iii) The declaration about the financial statements and notes made by the committee of a tier 1, 2 or 3 <sup>(O)</sup> association.

#### (x) Financial statements means:

- (i) If the association uses the cash basis of accounting:
  - (A) A statement of receipts and payments for the financial year,
  - (B) A reconciled statement of bank account balances as at the end of the financial vear, and
  - (C) A statement of assets and liabilities as at the end of the financial year.
- (ii) If the association uses the accrual basis of accounting:
  - (A) A statement of income and expenditure for the financial year, and
  - (B) A balance sheet.

#### (y) Financial year means:

- (i) In relation to the association's first financial year, the period ending twelve (12) months from the date of incorporation of the association, and
- (ii) After the association's first financial year, a period of twelve (12) months commencing on 1 January and ending on 31 December each year.
- (z) **General meeting** means a meeting of the members of the association to which all members (including associate members, if any) are invited to attend.
- (aa) Meeting Chair means the person who chairs a general meeting or a committee meeting.
- (bb) **Member** means an ordinary member or a user member of the Association as the case may be.
- (cc) Minutes means a permanent and detailed record of the deliberations of, and resolutions adopted at committee meetings and may include a hardcopy or an authorised electronic copy of documentation of those deliberations and resolutions.
- (dd) **Model rules** means the template set of rules for incorporated associations established under the associations regulations.
- (ee) Office holder means a committee member referred to in clause 20.2(a)
- (ff) **Ordinary resolution** means a resolution at a meeting that:
  - (i) Is not a special resolution, and
  - (ii) Is passed by the votes of more than 50% of the persons who are entitled to cast a vote at that meeting.
- (gg) **Organisational member** means an ordinary member or a user member of the incorporated association as the case may be.
- (hh) **Organisational representative** means a natural person (i.e. human being) nominated by the organisational member to represent the organisational member at one or more general meetings.

- (ii) **Poll** means voting conducted by a show of hands which is recoded in writing in the minutes.
- (jj) Quorum means the number of persons required to be present in order to conduct a meeting.
- (kk) **"Registered Charity** means an organisation that is registered as a charity under the ACNC Act".
- (II) **Special general meeting** shall mean a general meeting of members called to discuss a particular item or items.
- (mm) **Special resolution** means a resolution proposed at a meeting and passed by the votes of not less than seventy-five (75)% <sup>(M)</sup> of the persons who are entitled to cast a vote at that meeting.
- (nn) **Surplus property** means the property remaining when the association is wound up or cancelled after satisfying:
  - (i) The debts and liabilities of the association, and
  - (ii) The costs, charges and expenses of winding up the association, but does not include books relating to the management of the association.
- (oo) **Tier 1 association** means an association that, in a financial year:
  - (i) Has a revenue of less than \$250,000 or such other amount that is prescribed from time to time under section 64(1) of the Associations Act, or
  - (ii) Has been declared by the Commissioner to be a Tier 1 association.

Tier 1 associations can also elect to prepare basic financial statements with no independent review or audit.

(pp) User Group means at least two persons who meet in the Family Centre on a regular basis with a common purpose.

# 3.1. Relationship between constitution and Associations Act<sup>(GP)</sup>

The Associations Act overrides any provision in this constitution, which is inconsistent with the Associations Act.

#### 3.2. Interpretation<sup>(GP)</sup>

In this constitution:

- (a) The words 'including', 'for example', or similar expressions mean that there may be more inclusions or examples than those mentioned after that expression, and
- (b) Reference to an 'Act' includes every amendment, re-enactment, or replacement of that Act and any subordinate legislation made under that Act (such as the Associations Regulations).
- (c) All words imparting any gender shall mean all genders and all singular words shall also mean and include the plural.

#### **OBJECT, PURPOSES AND POWERS**

# 4. Object and purposes (M)(C)(R)

The association's object is to pursue the following purposes: (M)(R)

- (a) To provide social and developmental programs for younger children, which promote the concept of fun and interaction.
- (b) To encourage parental participation in order that parents may learn and understand more of their children's play and development.
- (c) To give children of all ages an opportunity for interaction with other children and adults.
- (d) In response to community needs, to develop and co-ordinate activities for all members of the community in a safe, welcoming and caring environment.
- (e) To provide and maintain safe and suitable premises, grounds and equipment for the purpose of the Association.
- (f) To raise, aid or contribute in the raising of funds for the use and benefit of the Family Centre, for any purpose considered advantageous to these objects.
- (g) To operate as a public benevolent association.
- (h) To promote the well-being and care of all children and families without discrimination and being mindful of families with special needs.

# 5. Powers<sup>(M)(C)(R)</sup>

Subject to the Associations Act, the association may do all things necessary to lawfully pursue its objects purposes. (M)(R)

The powers of the Association include:

- (a) To liaise with Government departments and other relevant organisations and agencies to further the above objects.
- (b) To raise money by public subscription and such other means as from time to time be approved by the Committee, such moneys to be expended on the above objects.
- (c) To improve, furnish, equip, maintain, and organize approved repairs(from any external owners of premises) to any premises, buildings and other constructions for use by the Association.
- (d) To sell, exchange, lease, hire, dispose of or turn to account or otherwise deal with all or any part of the real and personal property of the Association.
- (e) To become affiliated with, or subscribe to, any other association or body whose objects are similar to the objects of the Association and if thought fit, to withdraw or retire from any such association or body.
- (f) To do all other such things as are necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects of the Association.
- (g) To appoint, employ and pay staff, and to suspend, dismiss or otherwise deal with staff, as the Association may consider necessary from time to time.
- (h) To suspend, expel or otherwise deal with any member or official for any behaviour or non-compliance with these Rules, By Laws of the Association or decisions of the Committee when such behaviour or non-compliance is deemed not to be in the best interests of the Association.
- (i) To make By Laws for the running of the Family Centre and/or to regulate the behaviour of Members, including the making of appropriate penalties and sanctions for non-compliance with those By Laws.

# 6. Not-for-profit<sup>(M)(C)(R)</sup>

# 6.1. Property and income<sup>(M)(C)(R)</sup>

The property and income of the association shall be applied solely to promoting its object and purposes and no part of that property or income maybe paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to any member, except in good faith in promoting such object and purposes. (M)(C)(R)

# 6.2. Permitted payments (M)(C)(R)

Provided it is done in good faith, clause 6.1 does not prevent the association from:

- (a) Paying a member for goods or services they have provided, or expenses they have properly incurred at fair and reasonable rates, or  ${}^{(M)(C)(R)}$
- (b) Making payment to a member in carrying out the association's objects and purposes (M)(C)(R)

#### **MEMBERS – MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

# 7. Number, qualifications and liability of members (M)(R)

#### 7.1. Number (M)(R)

The association shall have a minimum of six (6) members with full voting rights. (M)(R)

#### 7.2. Qualifications (M)(R)

- (a) Except for paid staff members, any other person who supports the object purposes of the association is eligible to apply for membership. (GP)(R)(O)
- (b) The association must comply with all legal and regulatory obligations that apply to the association when assessing eligibility of an applicant to become a member. (GP)(R)
- (c) A person under the age of fifteen (15) years cannot belong to a class of members that has voting rights.  $^{(GP)(R)}$

#### 7.3. Liability (GP)(R)

- (a) Members are to pay any membership fees set by the association. (GP)(R)
- (b) Members are not liable to pay, by reason of the person's membership, any other debts incurred by or on behalf of the association, including the costs of winding up of the association. (GP)(R)

#### 8. Becoming a member

# 8.1. Application (GP)(R)

- (a) A person who wishes to become a member (applicant) shall:
  - (i) Make a written membership application to the Association by way of the Association's membership application form, and  $^{(GP)(R)}$
  - (ii) Be nominated for membership by a current member (nominee). (GP)(R)
- (b) The membership application form shall be signed by the applicant and the nominee. (GP)(R)
- (c) If the association has more than one class of members, the membership application form shall specify the applicable class of membership applied for by the applicant. (GP)(R)
- (d) An applicant becomes a member if:
  - (i) They meet all membership qualifications under clause 7.2, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) They complete and forward a membership application form to the Secretary under clause 8.1(a)(i),  $^{(GP)}$
  - (iii) The management committee approves their membership application at a general meeting, and  $^{(GP)(R)}$
  - (iv) They pay any membership fees due under clause 11. (GP)
- (e) When the requirements of clause 8.1(d) have been fulfilled the person becomes a member, is entitled to exercise all the rights and privileges of a member and is bound by this constitution. (GP)(R)

# 8.2. Consideration of membership application<sup>(GP)(R)</sup>

- (a) The management committee shall consider and decide whether to approve or reject a membership application. (GP)(R)
- (b) Subject to clause 8.2(c), a membership application shall be considered and decided in the order in which it was received. (GP)(R)
- (c) When considering a membership application, the management committee may seek clarification of any matter or further information in support of the application, and may delay its decision to allow for that material to be provided. (GP)(R)
- (d) The management committee shall not approve a membership application unless the applicant: (GP)(R)
  - (i) meets all the membership qualifications under clause 7.2, and (GP)(R)

- (ii) makes a written membership application under clause 8.1(a)(i), (GP)(R)
- (e) The management committee may refuse to accept a membership application even if the applicant has applied in writing and meets all membership qualifications under clause 7.2. (GP)(R)
- (f) As soon as is practicable after a decision is made under clause 8.2(a) the management committee shall give written notification to the applicant of the outcome of the membership application. (GP)(R)
- (g) The management committee is not obliged to provide reasons to the applicant or to any other person for its decision to accept or reject a membership application. (GP)

# 9. Members register (M)(R)

#### 9.1. Content of members register (M)(R)

- (a) The association shall maintain and keep updated a members register which shall contain: (M)(R)
  - (i) The full names of each member, (M)(R)
  - (ii) The contact postal, residential and/ or email addresses of each member, (M)(R)
  - (iii) The class of membership held by each member, and (M)(R)
  - (iv) The date upon which a person became a member. (M)(R)
- (b) Within twenty-eight (28) days after a change in membership the Secretary shall ensure that a membership change is recorded in the members register. (M)(R)
- (c) The Secretary shall ensure that the members register is kept and maintained at such place as the management committee decides. (M)(R)

# 9.2. Inspection and copying of members register<sup>(M)(R)</sup>

- (a) A member shall be entitled to inspect the members register free of charge, at such time and place as is mutually convenient to the association and the member. (M)(R)
- (b) A member shall contact the Secretary to request to inspect the members register. (GP)(R)
- (c) A member may make a copy of details from the members register but has no right to remove the members register.(M)(R)
- (d) A member may make a request in writing to the Secretary for a copy of the members register for which the association may charge a reasonable fee, which is to be determined by the committee from time to time. (GP)(R)
- (e) The management committee may require a member who requests a copy of the members register under clause 9.2(d) to provide a statutory declaration to the Secretary setting out the purpose of the request and declaring that the purpose is connected with the association's affairs. (GP)(R)

# 9.3. Prohibited use of information on members register (M)(R)

A member shall not use or disclose the information on the members register: (M)(R)

- (a) To gain access to information that a member has deliberately denied to them (for example, in relation to a social, family or legal difference or dispute involving the latter member), (M)(R)
- (b) To contact, send material to the association or a member for the purpose of advertising for political, religious, charitable or commercial purposes, or (M)(R)
- (c) For any other purpose unless the use of the information: (M)(R)
  - (i) Is approved by the committee, and  ${}^{(M)(R)}$  For a purpose directly connected:  ${}^{(M)(R)}$ 
    - (A) To the association's affairs, or  $(M)^{(R)}$
    - (B) To the provision of information to the Commissioner under the Incorporations Associations Act.  $^{(M)(R)}$

# 10. Classes of members (GP)(R)

# 10.1. Classes of members (GP)(R)

- (a) The membership of the association consists of only one class of members. (O)(R)
- (b) A member has all rights provided to members under the constitution, including the right to vote, and other rights and benefits as determined by the management committee or by resolution of the members at a general meeting. (M)(R)
- (c) A person under the age of fifteen (15) years cannot be a member. (GP)(R)

# 11. Membership fees<sup>(M)(R)(O)</sup>

# **11.1.** Entrance fee (M)(R)(O)

(a) The committee may from time to time determine the entrance fee, to be paid to the association by each member, or each class of members, upon becoming a member (membership entrance fee) (M)(R)(O)

#### 11.2 Annual membership fee (M)(R)

(a) Members are not required to pay any annual membership fees to the organisation. (M)(O)

#### 12. Termination of membership (M)(R)

#### 12.1. Circumstances when membership terminates (GP)(R)

- (a) A member's membership terminates if the member: (GP)(R)
  - (i) Ceases to be a member under clause 12.2 (c), (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Resigns as a member under clause 12.2 resignation (GP)(R)
  - (iii) Is expelled as a member under clause 12.3– suspension or expulsion, or (GP)(R)
  - (iv) Dies. (GP)(R)
- (b) The Association shall keep a record of: (M)(R)
  - (i) The date on which member's membership terminates under clause 12.1 (a) and (M)(R)
  - (ii) The reason the member's membership terminates  $^{(M)(R)}$  within twenty-eight (28) days after the change occurs  $^{(M)}$  and retain this information for a period of one year after a person's membership terminates.  $^{(GP)(R)}$

### 12.2. Resignation of member (GP)(R)

- (a) A member who has paid all membership fees (where applicable) may resign as a member by giving written notice of their resignation to the Secretary. (GP)(R)
- (b) The member's resignation is effective as at: (GP)(R)
  - (i) The time of receipt by the Secretary of the person's written notice of resignation, or (GP)(R)
  - (ii) If a later time is stated in the notice, at that later time. (GP)(R)
- (c) Despite their resignation, any member who resigns from the association remains liable to pay any outstanding membership fees (where applicable) to the association. (GP)(R)
- (d) The outstanding fees referred to in clause 12.2(c) may be recovered as a debt due by the member to the association. (GP)(R)

## 12.3. Suspension or expulsion of member<sup>(R)</sup>

- (a) The association may, by management committee resolution with a two-thirds majority vote, suspend or expel a member from membership if: (GP)(R)
  - (i) The member refuses or neglects to comply with this constitution, or (GP)(R)
  - (ii) The member's conduct or behaviour is detrimental to the interests of the association. (GP)(R)
- (b) The Secretary shall, not less than twenty-eight (28) days (R)(O) before the management committee meeting at which the suspension or expulsion resolution is to be considered, give written notice to the member: (GP)(R)

- (i) Of the proposed suspension or expulsion and the grounds on which it is based, (GP)(R)
- (ii) Of the date, place and time of the management committee meeting at which the suspension or expulsion resolution is to be considered,  ${}^{(GP)(R)}$
- (iii) That the member, or the member's representative, may attend the management committee meeting at which the suspension or expulsion resolution is to be considered, and  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (iv) That the member, or the member's representative, may address the management committee at the management committee meeting at which the suspension or expulsion resolution is to be considered and shall be given a full and fair opportunity to state the member's case orally, in writing, or both. (GP)(R)
- (c) At the management committee meeting at which the suspension or expulsion resolution is to be considered the management committee shall:  ${}^{(GP)(R)}$ 
  - (i) Give the member, or the member's representative, a full and fair opportunity to state the member's case orally, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the member, and (GP)(R)
  - (iii) Determine whether or not the member should be:(GP)(R)
    - (A) Expelled as a member, or (GP)(R)
    - (B) Suspended as a member, and if so, the period of the member's suspension. (GP)(R)
- (d) Once the management committee has decided to suspend or expel a member, the member is immediately suspended or expelled.  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (e) Within seven (7) days <sup>(R)(O)</sup> of the management committee meeting at which the suspension or expulsion resolution is considered, the Secretary shall ensure that the member is informed in writing of the management committee's decision and the reasons for the management committee's decision. <sup>(GP)(R)</sup>

#### 12.4. After suspension of member (GP)(R)

- (a) If a member's membership is suspended under clause 12.3 the Secretary shall record in the members register within twenty-eight (28) days  $^{(M)}$  of the date of suspension:  $^{(GP)(R)}$ 
  - (i) The suspended member's name, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) The date on which the member's suspension takes effect, and (GP)(R)
  - (iii) The length of the suspension determined by the management committee under clause 12.3(c)(iii)(b)  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (b) A suspended member cannot exercise any rights or privileges of a member, including voting rights, during the period of suspension.  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (c) Upon the expiry of the suspension period, the Secretary shall record in the members register that the member is no longer suspended within twenty-eight (28) days<sup>(M)</sup> of that expiration date. <sup>(GP)(R)</sup>

# 12.5. Member's right of appeal against suspension or expulsion (M)(R)

Within fourteen (14) days  $^{(R)(O)}$  of receiving notice of the management committee's decision under clause 12.3(c), an expelled or suspended member may appeal the management committee's suspension or expulsion decision by giving written notice of the expelled or suspended member's intention to seek:  $^{(GP)(R)}$ 

- (a) An appeal of the management committee's suspension or expulsion decision, and (GP)(R)
- (b) The appointment of a mediator under clause 35. (GP)(R)

# 12.6. Reinstatement of member (M)(R)

If the management committee's decision to suspend or expel a member is revoked, any act performed by the management committee or members in general meeting during the period that the member was suspended or expelled from membership under clause 12.3, is deemed to be valid, notwithstanding the member's inability to exercise their rights or privileges of a member, including the right to vote, during that suspension period. (GP)(R)

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

# 13. General meeting (M)

# 13.1. Definition (GP)

A general meeting is a meeting of the members of the association and is open for all interested parties to attend. (GP)

# 13.2. Two types of general meeting (GP)

There are two types of general meetings, namely: (GP)

- (a) An annual general meeting, and (GP)
- (b) A special general meeting. (GP)

#### 14. Annual general meeting<sup>(M)</sup>

The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held during the first two weeks of the first term of each school year, the date to be set at the final General Meeting of each year. The Annual General Meeting agenda shall be:

- Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
- Business arising from the previous minutes
- Annual report from the Chairperson
- Treasurer's report statement of income and expenditure for the immediate past year
- General business
- Election of officeholders for the ensuing year. The election of members must be with the written consent of the nominated members.
- Determination of time of general meetings for the ensuing year
- Appointment of bookkeeper for the ensuing year to provide overview and preparation of financial reports and recording procedures.

#### 14.1. Purpose of annual general meeting (M)

An annual general meeting is:

- (a) A general meeting of all the members that is to be held once during each calendar year. (M)(R)
- (b) Called to conduct the following business: (GP)(R)
  - (i) Confirmation of the minutes of the previous annual general meeting, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Confirmation of the minutes of any special general meeting held since the previous annual general meeting (if the minutes of that special general meeting have not yet been confirmed), (GP)(R)
  - (iii) Receive the annual report from the committee chairperson.
  - (iv) Receive the financial statements for the previous financial and calendar year from the treasurer $^{(M)(R)}$ , and
  - (v) Receive
    - (A) The report on the financial statements for the previous financial year (if any), or  $^{(M)(R)}$
    - (B) The auditor's report on the financial statements for the previous financial year (if any).  $^{(M)(R)}$
  - (vi) Elector appoint committee officeholders for the ensuing year. (M)(R)
  - (vii) Determine the time of general meetings for the ensuing year.
  - (viii) Appoint a bookkeeper for the ensuing year as required or requested by the Commissioner or management committee.

#### 14.2. Date, time and place of annual general meeting $^{(M)(R)}$

An annual general meeting shall be held on a date during the first term of each school year, and at a time and place, decided by the committee. The date to be set at the final general meeting of each calendar year.  $^{(M)(R)}$ 

# 14.3. Financial statements and reports and annual general meetings (M)(R)

- (a) As a tier 1 association and where: (M)(R)
  - (i) A majority<sup>(M)</sup> (more than 50%) of members present at a general meeting pass a resolution to this effect, or  $^{(M)(R)}$
  - (ii) The Commissioner directs the association to do so,

#### The association shall ensure that:

- a. Its financial statements for the relevant financial year are either reviewed <sup>(O)</sup> or audited<sup>(O)</sup>, and
- b. a copy of the review report<sup>(O)</sup>or auditor's report<sup>(O)</sup>is submitted to the annual general meeting.
- c. If required by the Associations Regulations, lodge the annual return with the Commissioner. (GP)(R)

### 14.4. Holding annual general meeting<sup>(M)(R)</sup>

- (a) The Association shall hold an annual general meeting each calendar year: (M)(R)
  - (i) Within six (6) months after the end of the Association's **financial year**, or <sup>(M)(R)</sup>
  - (ii) Within a longer period if the Commissioner so allows. (M)(R)
- (b) If the association requires the approval from the Commissioner to hold its annual general meeting within a longer period under Clause 14.4(a)(ii) the Secretary shall ensure that application is made to the Commissioner for such approval no later than four (4) months after the end of the financial year. (GP)(R)
- (c) The notice calling for an annual general meeting shall specify that it is an annual general meeting of the association and shall comply with Clause 14.1. (M)(R)

# 14.5. General meeting (M)(GP)

- (a) Meeting of members for the forthcoming year at such times and places that is set by the management committee at the annual general meeting is called a general meeting. (GP)
- (b) The Committee shall meet as often as may be required to conduct the business of the Association and not less than eight times in each calendar year.
- (c) A quorum at the Committee meeting shall comprise no less than five (5) members of the Committee.
- (d) The Chairperson or two members of the Committee shall have the power to call a meeting of the Committee.
- (e) Notice of meetings shall be given by not less than seven (7) days written notice to all Committee members, or in an emergency such other notice as the Committee may ratify at the next Committee meeting regularly called.
- (f) Each Committee member shall have one vote (to be cast either by the show of hands or by poll, at the discretion of the Chairperson), and the Chairperson shall not have a second or casting vote.
- (g) The manner of calling, the quorum and procedure of a special general meeting are the same as for an annual general meeting, although the business to be conducted will be different. (M)(GP)

#### 14.6. Special general meeting (M)(GP)

- (h) Any meeting of members that is not an annual general meeting or general meeting is called a special general meeting. (GP)
- (i) A special general meeting:
  - (i) Shall have a specific purpose, (GP)
  - (ii) Is often called to deal with business that cannot wait until the scheduled general meeting, and (GP)
  - (iii) May consider a range of matters, including matters that shall be decided by a special resolution. (GP)
- (j) The manner of calling, the quorum and procedure of a special general meeting are the same as for a general meeting, although the business to be conducted will be different. (M)(GP)

# 14.7. Calling special annual general meeting or special general meeting (M)(GP)

Special General Meetings and, where required, a Special Annual General Meeting may be convened by the Chairperson or Secretary or by requisition signed by five (5) financial members of the Association. Not less than seven (7) days notice shall be given to all members of any proposed Special General Meeting.

- (a) A special annual general meeting or special general meeting may be called by:
  - (i) The committee, at any time, or (GP)(R)
  - (ii) At least five (5)% <sup>(O)</sup> of the total number of members entitled to vote at a special annual general meeting or special general meeting. <sup>(GP)(R)</sup>
- (b) Members may call a special annual general meeting or special general meeting under Clause 14.7(a)(ii) by forwarding a notice in writing to the Secretary or, in the absence of the Secretary, to the Chairperson. (GP)(R)

# 14.8. Members call for special annual general meeting or special general meeting<sup>(M)(GP)</sup>

- (a) In the event that members request a special annual general meeting or special general meeting to be held under Clause 14.7(a)(ii) the committee shall: (GP)(R)
  - (i) Within twenty-one (21) days <sup>(O)</sup> of the member's request, forward notice of a special annual general meeting or special general meeting to all members, and <sup>(GP)(R)</sup>
  - (ii) Hold the special annual general meeting or special general meeting within two (2) months (O) of the member's request. (GP)(R)
- (b) The percentage of votes of members set out in Clause 14.7(a)(ii) is to be calculated as at midnight (O) before the day upon (O) which the members request the special annual general meeting or special general meeting to be called. (GP)
- (c) A request by the members for a special annual general meeting or special general meeting to be held under Clauses 14.7(a)(ii) and 14.7(b) shall: (GP)(R)
  - (i) State the purpose of the special annual general meeting or special general meeting, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Be signed by at least five  $5^{(O)}$  of the members entitled to vote at a special annual general meeting or special general meeting, and  $G^{(GP)(R)}$
  - (iii) Be lodged with the Secretary or, in the absence of the Secretary, with the Chairperson.  $_{(GP)(R)}$
- (d) Separate copies of a document setting out the request by the members for a special annual general meeting or special general meeting to be held under Clauses 14.7(a)(ii) and 14.7(b) may be signed by members if the wording of the request is the same in each copy of the request. (GP)(R)

# 14.9. Failure to hold special annual general meeting or special general meeting requested by members<sup>(M)(R)</sup>

- (a) If the Committee does not call the special annual general meeting or special general meeting requested by members under Clauses 14.7(a)(ii) and 14.7(b) within twenty-one (21) days of being requested, a majority (being more than 50%) of the percentage of members who made the request under 14.7(a)(ii) and 14.8(c)(ii), may call and arrange to hold a special annual general meeting or special general meeting. (GP)(R)
- (b) To call and hold a special annual general meeting or special general meeting under Clause 14.9(a), the members shall: (GP)(R)
  - (i) As far as possible, follow the meeting procedures set out in this Constitution, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Call the special annual general meeting or special general meeting using the list of members on the members register, which the association shall provide at no cost to the members making the request, and <sup>(GP)(R)</sup>
  - (iii) Hold the special annual general meeting or special general meeting within three months after the request for a special annual general meeting or special general meeting to be held under Clauses 14.7(a)(ii) and 14.7(b) was lodged with the Secretary or, in the absence of the Secretary, with the Chairperson. (GP)(R)

(c) The association shall pay the members calling and holding the special annual general meeting or special general meeting under Clauses 14.9(a) and 14.9(b) any reasonable expenses incurred by them because the committee did not call and hold the special annual general meeting or special general meeting under Clause 14.8. (GP)(R)

# 14.10. Quorum at annual general meeting, general meeting or special meetings (M)(R)

- (a) Five (5) members<sup>(O)</sup> present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting.
- (b) Subject to Clauses 14.10(c) and 14.10(d), no business shall be conducted at an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting unless a quorum of members entitled to vote is present at the time the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting considering that item. (GP)(R)
- (c) If, within half an hour of the time appointed for the commencement of an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, a quorum is not present: (GP)(R)
  - (i) In the case of a special meeting, the meeting lapses, or (GP)(R)
  - (ii) In the case of an annual general meeting or general meeting, the meeting is to stand adjourned to:  ${}^{(GP)(R)}$ 
    - (A) A period of time not more than seven (7) days following the adjourned meeting time as decided by a majority of members present, and (GP)(R)
    - (B) The same place unless another place is specified by the Chairperson at the time of the adjournment or by written notice given to the members before the day to which the meeting is adjourned. (GP)(R)
- (d) If at the adjourned annual general meeting or general meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present are to constitute a quorum. (GP)(R)

# 14.11. Notice of, and motions at, annual general meeting, general meeting or a special $meeting^{(M)(R)}$

- (a) The Secretary shall ensure that each member is given at least: (GP)(R)
  - (i) Seven (7) days' notice of a general meeting<sup>(GP)(R)(GP)(R)</sup>
- (b) The notice of an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting shall specify: (GP)(R)
  - (i) The place, date and time of the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting,  $^{(GP)(R)}$
  - (ii) That the member is entitled to attend and vote at the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, and  $^{(GP)(R)}$
  - (iii) The particulars and order of the business to be conducted at the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting. (GP)(R)
- (c) The notice of an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting or any notice of motion must be issued in the manner set out in Clauses 37 and 38. (GP)(R)

# 14.12. Using technology to hold annual general meeting or special general meeting (O)(M)(R)

- (a) An annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting may take place: (O)(M)(R)
  - (i) Where the members are physically present together, or (O)(M)(R)
  - (ii) By the use of any technology (such as video or teleconferencing) that is agreed to by all members, if it reasonably allows each member to participate fully in discussions and decisions as they happen in the annual general meeting or special general meeting and provided that the participation of each member is made known to all other members in attendance. (O)(M)(R)
- (b) A member who participates in an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting as set out in Clause 14.12(a). (O)(M)(R)
  - (i) Is deemed to be present at the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, and  $^{(O)(M)(R)}$

(ii) Continues to be present at the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting for the purposes of establishing a quorum, until the member notifies the other members that they are no longer taking part in the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting. (O)(M)(R)

# 14.13. Conducting annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting (M)(R)

- (a) The Chairperson shall normally act as Meeting Chair of each annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting. (GP)(R)
- (b) The members at an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting may elect a committee member other than the Chairperson to be the Meeting Chair for that annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting if the Chairperson is: (GP)(R)
  - (i) Not present within 30 minutes after the starting time set for the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, or (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Present but does not want to act as Meeting Chair of the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting. (GP)(R)
- (c) The annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting cannot conduct business unless the quorum specified in Clause 14.10 is present. (GP)(R)
- (d) At an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting at which the quorum specified in Clause 14.10 is present, the Meeting Chair may adjourn the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting with the consent of a majority (more than 50%) of the members present. (GP)(R)
- (e) No business shall be conducted at a rescheduled annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting other than the unfinished business from the adjourned annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting (GP)(R)
- (f) When an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting is adjourned for seven(7) days or more, the Secretary shall ensure that notice of the adjourned annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting is given to the members in accordance with Clause 14.11 as if that general meeting was a new annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting.

  (GP)(R)
- (g) If, within half an hour of the time appointed for the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting the quorum specified in Clause 14.10 is not present, the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting is to stand adjourned to a period of time not more than seven (7) days following the adjourned meeting time as decided by a majority of members present.
- (h) The Secretary shall ensure that minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of all annual general meetings, general meetings or special meetings are recorded and maintained together with a record of the names of persons present at each annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting. (GP)(R)
- (i) The Auditor is entitled to attend any annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting and to be heard by the members on any part of the business of the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting that concerns the Auditor in the capacity of Auditor. (GP)(R)
- (j) The association shall give the Auditor any communications relating to the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting that a member is entitled to receive.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, GENERAL MEETING AND SPECIAL MEETINGS - RESOLUTIONS

## 15. Ordinary (GP) and special resolutions (M)

# 15.1. Definitions (GP)

- (a) There are two types of member's resolutions, namely: (GP)
  - (i) An ordinary resolution, and (GP)
  - (ii) A special resolution. (GP)
- (b) An ordinary resolution: (GP)
  - (i) Is a resolution that is not a special resolution as described in 15.1(c), and <sup>(GP)</sup>
  - (ii) Shall: (GP)
    - (A) Be passed at an annual general meeting or special general meeting at which a quorum is present, and (GP)
    - (B) Be supported by the votes of a majority (more than 50%) of the members present, in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote at the annual general meeting or special general meeting. (GP)
- (c) A special resolution: (M)
  - (i) shall be necessary to: (M)
    - (A) Amend the name of the association, (M)
    - (B) Amend the constitution, (M)
    - (C) Affiliate the association with another body, (M)
    - (D) Transfer the incorporation of the association, (M)
    - (E) Amalgamate the association with one or more other incorporated associations, (M)
    - (F) Voluntarily wind up the association, (M)
    - (G) Cancel the incorporation of the association, or <sup>(M)</sup>
    - (H) Request that a statutory manager be appointed to the association, and (M)
  - (ii) shall:
    - (A) Be passed at an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting at which the quorum specified in Clause 14.10 is present, and  $^{(M)}$
    - (B) Be supported by the votes of not less than seventy-five (75) % of the members present, in person or by proxy, and entitled to vote at the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting. (M)

#### 15.2. Notice of special resolution<sup>(M)</sup>

For a special resolution to be passed by the members at an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting: (M)

- (a) Members shall receive notice of the special resolution twenty-one (21) days (in accordance with clause 14.11(a)(ii)) before the date of the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting. (M)
- (b) The notice of the special resolution shall: (M)
  - (i) Be in writing, (M)
  - (ii) Include the place, date and time of the general meeting where it is proposed that the special resolution be put,  $^{(M)}$
  - (iii) Include the intention to propose a special resolution, and <sup>(M)</sup>
  - (iv) Set out the wording of the proposed special resolution. (M)
- (c) If notice is not given in accordance with Clause 15.2(b) the special resolution shall have no effect.

#### 16. Members circular resolutions (O)

- (a) The committee may put a circular resolution to the members (members' circular resolution). (0)
- (b) A members circular resolution cannot be used: (M) if you adopt circular resolutions clause
  - (i) To pass a special resolution, (M) if you adopt circular resolutions clause

- (ii) To remove an Auditor, (M) if you adopt circular resolutions clause
- (iii) To appoint or remove a committee member, or (M) if you adopt circular resolutions clause
- (iv) Where the associations Act or this constitution requires an annual general meeting or special general meeting to be held. (M) if you adopt circular resolutions clause
- (c) The Secretary may arrange for a members circular resolution to be sent by email to members and members may agree to the members' circular resolution by sending a reply email to the Secretary including the text of the members' circular resolution in their reply.<sup>(O)</sup>
- (d) A members circular resolution is passed if all the members entitled to vote on the resolution sign or agree to the members circular resolution by: (O)
  - (i) Signing a single document setting out the members circular resolution and containing a statement that the members agree to the members circular resolution, or (O)
  - (ii) Signing separate copies of the document setting out the members' circular resolution and containing a statement that the members agree to the members circular resolution, provided that the wording in each copy of the document is identical, or forwarding an email referred to in Clause 16(c) (O)
- (e) The Secretary shall ensure that the associations Auditor is: (o)
  - (i) Notified as soon as possible that a members circular resolution has or is to be put to members, and <sup>(o)</sup>
  - (ii) Provided with a copy of the members circular resolution. (O)

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, GENERAL MEETING AND SPECIAL MEETINGS - VOTING

# 17. Voting conditions at annual general meeting, general meeting and special meetings<sup>(M)</sup>

# 17.1. Number of votes per member at annual general meeting, general meeting and special meetings (M)

(a) Each member has one vote at an annual general meeting, general meeting and special meetings.

#### 17.2. Entitlement to vote at annual general meeting, general meeting and special meeting

A member is only entitled to vote at an annual general meeting or special general meeting if the member's name is recorded in the members register as at the date the notice of the general meeting was sent out. (GP)(R)

# 17.3. Challenge to member's right to vote at annual general meeting, general meeting and special meeting<sup>(O)</sup>

- (a) A member or the Meeting Chair may only challenge a person's right to vote at an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting at that same annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting.<sup>(O)</sup>
- (b) If a challenge is made under Clause 17.3(a) the Meeting shall review the person's right to vote under Clause 17.2 and then decide whether or not the person may vote. (O)
- (c) The Meeting Chair's decision on this point is final. (O)

# 17.4. Organisational members and organisational representatives – voting at annual general meeting, general meeting and special meeting (O)

- (a) An organisational member may appoint a natural person (i.e. a human being) to represent the organisational member at annual general meetings, general meetings and special meetings (organisational representative). (O)
- (b) An organisational representative shall be appointed in writing by the organisational member, specifying scope of representation. (O)
- (c) A copy of the written advice shall be forwarded by the organisational member to the Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting. (O)
- (d) An organisational representative has authority to represent the organisational member: (0)
  - (i) If appointed for a particular annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, until the conclusion of that annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, or <sup>(O)</sup>
  - (ii) Otherwise, until the appointment of the organisational representative is revoked by the organisational member and notice of this revocation is given by the organisational member to the Secretary. (O)

#### 17.5. Voting procedure at annual general meeting, general meeting and special meetings (M)

- (a) Voting at an annual general meeting, general meeting and special meetings shall be conducted and decided by: (GP)
  - (i) A show of hands, (GP)
  - (ii) A vote in writing, or <sup>(GP)</sup>
  - (iii) Another method chosen by the Meeting Chair that is fair and reasonable in the circumstances. (GP)
- (b) Before a vote is taken, the Meeting Chair shall state whether any proxy votes have been received and, if so, how the proxy votes shall be cast. (O)
- (c) The Meeting Chair's decision is conclusive evidence of the result of the vote. (GP)(O)
- (d) The Meeting Chair and the minutes of the annual general meeting, general meeting and special meetings do not need to state the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour or against on a show of hands. (GP)(O)

(e) In the case of an equality of votes at an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, the Meeting Chair is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote. (GP)(O)

# 17.6. When and how a vote in writing shall be held at annual general meeting, general meeting and special meetings (M)(GP)(O)

- (a) A vote in writing may be demanded on any resolution instead of, or after, a vote by a show of hands by: (GP)(O)
  - (i) At least five (5) (O) members present, or (GP)(O)
  - (ii) The Meeting Chair. (GP)(O)
- (b) A vote in writing shall be taken when and how the Meeting Chair directs. (GP)(O)
- (c) A vote in writing shall be held immediately if it is demanded under Clause 17.6(a)
  - (i) For the election of a Meeting Chair under Clause 14.2(b) or (GP)(O)
  - (ii) To decide whether to adjourn the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting.  $^{(GP)(O)}$

# 18. Proxies at annual general meeting and special general meeting (M)(GP)(O)

**Alternative clause:** (a) No member may vote by, or appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf at an annual general meeting or special general meeting.

#### 18.1. Annual general meeting and special general meeting requirements(GP)(O)

- (a) A member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote at an annual general meeting or special general meeting on their behalf.  $^{(GP)(O)}$
- (b) The appointed proxy must be a member. (GP)(O)
- (c) No member may hold more than two (2) proxy votes at an annual general meeting or special general meeting. (GP)(O)
- (d) A proxy appointed to attend and vote for a member has the same rights as the member to: (GP)(O)
  - (i) Speak at the annual general meeting or special general meeting, (GP)(O)
  - (ii) Cast a vote in writing (but only to the extent allowed by the proxy's appointment), and (GP)(O)
  - (iii) Join in to demand a vote in writing under Clause 17.6. (GP)(O)
- (e) An appointment of proxy (**Proxy Form**), shall be signed by the appointing member and shall contain: (GP)(O)
  - (i) The appointing member's name and address, (GP)(O)
  - (ii) The association's name, (GP)(O)
  - (iii) The proxy's name or the name of the office held by the proxy, and (GP)(O)
  - (iv) The annual general meeting(s) and special general meeting(s) at which the appointment may be used by the proxy. (GP)(O)
- (f) A proxy appointment may be a standing (i.e. ongoing) proxy appointment. (O)
- (g) At least forty-eight (48) hours <sup>(O)</sup> before the annual general meeting or special general meeting for which the proxy relates is scheduled to commence, proxy forms shall be received by the association at the address stated in the notice of the annual general meeting or special general meeting, or at the association's registered address.<sup>(GP)(O)</sup>
- (h) A proxy does not have the right to speak or vote for a member at an annual general meeting or special general meeting while the member is present at the annual general meeting or special general meeting. (GP)(O)
- (i) Unless the association receives written notice before the start or resumption of an annual general meeting or special general meeting at which a proxy votes, a vote cast by the proxy is valid even if, before the proxy votes, the appointing member: (GP)(O)
  - (i) Dies, (GP)(O)
  - (ii) Is mentally incapacitated, (GP)(O)
  - (iii) Revokes the proxy's appointment, or (GP)(O)
  - (iv) Revokes the authority of a representative or agent who appointed the proxy. (GP)(O)

- (j) A member may specify the way the proxy shall vote on a particular resolution. (GP)(O)
- (k) When a vote in writing is held, a proxy, does not need to vote, unless the proxy form appointment specifies the way they shall vote. (GP)(O)

# 18.2. Determining whether ordinary resolution carried at annual general meeting, general meeting and special meetings (M)

- (a) Unless a poll is demanded under Clause 18.3, if a question arising at an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting is determined by general agreement or a show of hands, a declaration shall be made by the Meeting Chair of the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting that the ordinary resolution has been: (GP)(R)
  - (i) Carried unanimously, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Carried by a majority (more than 50%) of members present, or (GP)(R)
  - (iii) Lost. (GP)(R)
- (b) If the declaration relates to a special resolution then all items under clause 15.1(c) and 15.2 must be fulfilled. The minutes must also state that a special resolution has been determined. (GP)
- (c) A declaration made under Clause 18.2(a) shall be entered into the minutes. (M)(R)
- (d) The entry in the minutes under Clause 18.2(c) is evidence of the fact that the resolution has been determined, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution. (O)

#### 18.3. Poll at annual general meeting, general meeting and special meeting<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) At an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, a poll on any question may be demanded by either: (GP)(R)
  - (i) The Meeting Chair, or (GP)(R)
  - (ii) At least three members present in person or by proxy (O). (GP)(R)
- (b) If a poll is demanded at an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, the poll shall be taken in a manner as the Meeting Chair directs and a declaration by the Meeting Chair of the result of the poll is evidence of the matter so declared. (GP)(R)
- (c) If a poll is demanded at an annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, the poll shall be taken: (GP)(R)
  - (i) Immediately in the case of a poll which relates to electing a Meeting Chair to chair the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Immediately in the case of a poll which relates to adjourning the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting, or (GP)(R)
  - (iii) In any other case, in the manner and time before the close of the annual general meeting, general meeting or special meeting as the Meeting Chair directs. (GP)(R)

#### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS**

#### 19. Management Committee role and powers

#### 19.1. Role (M)

The committee shall control and manage the association's affairs and take all reasonable steps to ensure the association complies with its obligations under the Associations Act, this constitution and all other applicable laws. (M)

#### 19.2. Powers (M)

Subject to the Associations Act, this constitution and any lawful resolution passed by the association in general meeting, the committee: (M)

- (a) May exercise all powers and functions as may be exercised by the association, other than those powers and functions that are required by this constitution to be exercised by a general meeting, and (M)
- (b) Has power to perform all acts and do all things as appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the association's business and affairs. (M)

# 20. Number of office holders, composition and competencies<sup>(M)</sup>

# 20.1. Number of members on management committee<sup>(M)</sup>

The committee shall have no less than six (6) committee members. (GP)

#### 20.2. Composition of management committee<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) The management committee shall include:
  - (i) The Chairperson. (O) (GP)
  - (ii) The Deputy Chairperson, (O) (GP)
  - (iii) The Secretary, (O) (GP)
  - (iv) The Treasurer, (O) (GP) (collectively called the **office holders**), and (O) (GP)
  - (v) At least two (2) additional committee members. (O) (GP)
- (b) A committee member will not hold more than one officeholder position at any time, unless a situation deems it necessary, as determined by a management committee vote. (O) (GP)

#### 20.3. Competencies of Management Committee members (M

- (a) A committee member shall be: (M)
  - (i) A natural person i.e. a human being, (M)
  - (ii) Aged over 18, and (M)
  - (iii) A member. (M)
- (b) A person cannot be a committee member if: (M)
  - a. They are a current employee of the association, (O)
  - b. In the previous five years, they have been convicted of, or imprisoned for: (M)
    - (A) An indictable offence under the laws of any state or territory of the Commonwealth of Australia in relation to the promotion, formation or management of a body corporate, (M)
    - (B) An offence involving fraud or dishonesty punishable by imprisonment for a period of three (3) months or more under the laws of any state or territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, or <sup>(M)</sup>
  - c. They are: (M)
    - (A) Bankrupt, or (M)
    - (B) Unless the person has obtained the consent of the Commissioner, a person whose affairs are under insolvency laws. (M)

- d. Unless they have obtained the consent of the Commissioner, a person who has committed a breach of the following committee member's duties: (M)
  - (A) Duty of care and diligence, (M)
  - (B) Duty of good faith and proper purpose, (M)
  - (C) Duty to not improperly use their position, (M)
  - (D) Duty to ensure that the association does not incur a debt while insolvent, or (M)
  - (E) Duty to not improperly use information gained while a committee member. (M)
- (c) A committee member who has been suspended as a member under Clause 12.2 cannot act in the position of a committee member until their period of suspension as a member has expired. (M)

# 21. Management committee member duties (M)

#### 21.1. General members' duties (M)

Committee members shall comply with their duties as members under legislation and common (judge-made) law and shall [and, where applicable, with the duties described in Governance Standard 5 of the ACNC Regulations] (C):

- (a) Exercise their powers and discharge their duties with the degree of care and diligence that a reasonable individual would exercise if they were a committee member of the association, (M)
- (b) Act in good faith in the best interests of the association, (M)
- (c) Act for a proper purpose, (M)
- (d) Act to further the [charitable] (C) object and purposes of the association, (M) (C)
- (e) Act in the best interests of the association, (M)
- (f) Not misuse information gained in their role as a committee member, (M)
- (g) Disclose any perceived or actual material conflicts of interest, (M)
- (h) Ensure that the financial affairs of the association are managed responsibly, and
- (i) Not allow the association to operate while insolvent. (M)
- (j) Not improperly use: (M)
  - (i) Information obtained because they are or were a committee member, or (M)
  - (ii) Their position of member, to: (M)
    - a. Gain an advantage for themselves or another person, or (M)
    - b. Cause detriment to the association. (M)

# 21.2. Committee member conflict of interest<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) A committee member shall disclose to all the members present at the committee meeting the nature and extent of any actual or perceived material conflict of interest in a matter that is being considered at the committee meeting. (M)
- (b) Disclose the nature and extent of the interest at the next General Meeting of the Association. (M)
- (c) The disclosure of a conflict of interest by a member shall be recorded in the minutes of the committee meeting. (M)
- (d) Each member who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a committee meeting (or that is proposed in a committee circular resolution) shall not, except as provided under Clause 21.2(d): (M)
  - (i) Be present at the committee meeting while the matter is being discussed, or (M)
  - (ii) Vote on the matter. (M)
- (e) A member may still be present and vote if: (M)
  - (i) Their interest relates to an insurance contract that insures, or would insure, the member against liabilities incurred by the member as a committee member, (M)
  - (ii) The committee members who do not have a material personal interest in the matter pass a resolution that: (M)
    - (A) Identifies the member, the nature and extent of the member's interest in the matter and how it relates to the association's affairs, and (M)

(B) States that those members who do not have a material personal interest in the matter are satisfied that the member's material personal interest in the matter should not prevent the member from being present at the committee meeting while the matter is being discussed or from voting on the matter. (M)

## 22. Appointment of Management Committee Members<sup>(M)</sup>

# 22.1. Nomination for appointment as committee members<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) A member who wishes to be a committee member shall be nominated by one (1) $^{(O)}$  other member as a candidate for election as a committee member. $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (b) Nominations for election as a committee member shall close at least twenty-eight (28) days before the annual general meeting. (GP)(R)
- (c) The Secretary must ensure a notice is sent, calling for nominations for election as a committee member and specifying the date for the close of nominations, to all members at least fourteen (14) days before the date for the close of nominations. (GP)(R)
- (d) Nominations for election as committee member shall be: (GP)(R)
  - (i) In writing, and (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Delivered to the Secretary on or before the date for the close of nominations. (GP)(R)
- (e) A member may only be nominated for one  $(1)^{(O)}$  office holder position prior to the annual general meeting.  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (f) If a nomination for election as a committee member is not made in accordance with Clauses 22.1(a) to 22.1(e) the nomination shall be invalid and the member shall not be eligible for election as a committee member. (GP)(R)

#### 22.2. Methods (M)

Committee members shall be appointed to the committee by: (GP)(R)

- (a) Election at an annual general meeting, or (GP)(R)
- (b) Appointment by the committee to fill a casual vacancy under Clause 22.4. (GP)(R)

# 22.3. Election of committee members at an annual general meeting<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) Subject to this constitution, the procedure for the election of committee members at the annual general meeting shall be decided by the committee. (GP)(R)
- (b) If the number of valid nominations received under Clause 22.1 is equal to the number of committee member vacancies to be filled, the member nominated will be regarded as being elected as a committee member at the annual general meeting. (GP)(R)
- (c) If the number of valid nominations exceeds the number of committee member vacancies to be filled, elections for the committee member vacancies shall be conducted at the annual general meeting. (GP)(R)
- (d) If there are not enough valid nominations to fill the number of committee member vacancies, the candidates nominated (if any) shall be deemed to be elected as committee members and further nominations may be received from the floor of the annual general meeting. (GP)(R)
- (e) Where the number of nominations as committee members from the floor exceeds the remaining number of committee member vacancies, elections for those committee member positions shall be conducted. (GP)(R)
- (f) If an insufficient number of nominations as committee members are received from the floor for the number of committee member vacancies that remain, each relevant committee member position is declared vacant by the Meeting Chair of the annual general meeting and: (O)
  - (i) A new annual general meeting shall be scheduled by the committee to take place within fourteen (14) days; and <sup>(O)</sup>
  - (ii) The committee shall continue to operate, as long as there is a quorum, until the declaration of the new election of committee members at the rescheduled annual general meeting.  $^{(O)}$

- (g) A list of candidates for election as committee members, with their names in alphabetical order, together with the names of the members who nominated each candidate, shall accompany the notice of the annual general meeting. (GP)(R)
- (h) Each member present and eligible to vote at the annual general meeting may vote for one candidate for each committee member vacancy. (GP)(R)
- (i) A member who nominates for election or re-election as a committee member may vote for themselves. $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (j) If, at the new annual general meeting scheduled under Clause 22.3(f)(i) the association fails to fill the committee member vacancies the committee shall consider the vacant committee member positions to be casual vacancies and proceed to appoint committee members to fill such casual vacancy(ies) under Clause 22.4. (O)

#### 22.4. Appointment of committee members by committee to fill a casual vacancy<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) A casual vacancy occurs in committee membership and that position of committee member becomes vacant if: (GP)(R)
  - (i) A committee member ceases to be a member, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) A committee member dies, (GP)(R)
  - (iii) A committee member becomes disqualified from holding a position under Clause 20.3(b),  $^{(GP)(R)}$
  - (iv) A committee member becomes permanently incapacitated by mental or physical ill-health, (GP)(R)
  - (v) A committee member resigns as a committee member, (GP)(R)
  - (vi) A committee member is removed as a committee member, (GP)(R)
  - (vii) A committee member is absent from more than: (GP)(R)
    - (A) Three (3) consecutive committee meetings without a good reason, or (GP)(R)
    - (B) Three (3) committee meetings in the same financial year without tendering an apology to the Meeting Chair of each of those committee meetings, and the committee has resolved to declare the position of committee member vacant, or (GP)(R)
  - (viii) The association fails to fill a committee member vacancy under Clause 22.3(j) (GP)(R)
- (b) If there is a casual vacancy within the meaning of Clause 22.3(j) the continuing committee members may:  $^{(GP)(R)}$ 
  - (i) Appoint a member to fill that committee member vacancy until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting, and (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Subject to Clause 22.3(j), continue to act despite the vacant position on the committee. (GP)(R)
- (c) If the number of committee members is less than the number fixed under Clause 25.5 as the quorum for committee meetings, the continuing committee members may act only to:(GP)(R)
  - (i) Increase the number of committee members on the committee to the number required for a quorum, or (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Call a special general meeting. (GP)(R)

#### 22.5. Term of office<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) The committee members appointed on incorporation of the association shall remain as committee members until the conclusion of the first annual general meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. (M)
- (b) At each annual general meeting the following committee members shall retire: (GP)
  - (i) Any committee member appointed by the committee members to fill a casual vacancy, and (GP)
  - (ii) At least 33% (one third) (O) of the remaining committee members. (GP)
- (c) The committee members who retire at each annual general meeting under Clause 22.5(b)(ii) will

- be those committee members who have been longest in office since last being elected. (O)
- (d) Where committee members were elected on the same day, the committee member(s) to retire will be decided by ballot, unless the committee members agree otherwise. (GP)
- (e) A committee member's term of office starts on the date at which they were elected, and ends on the date on which they retire, am expelled or suspended or where membership is terminated under Clause 12.1 <sup>(M)</sup>
- (f) Each committee member must retire at least once every three (3) $^{(0)}$  years.  $^{(0)}$
- (g) A committee member who retires under Clause 22.5(b) may nominate for election or re-election, subject to Clause 22.5(h) (O)
- (h) Unless the Members pass a special resolution authorising such an action, a committee member who has held office for a continuous period of nine (9)<sup>(o)</sup> years or more may only be re-appointed or re-elected if a period of one calendar year has passed since the end of the committee member's continuous period of nine (9) <sup>(o)</sup> years as a committee member.<sup>(O)</sup>

#### 23. Resignation and removal of committee members<sup>(M)</sup>

#### 23.1. Resignation<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) A committee member may resign from the committee by giving written notice of resignation to the Secretary, or if the committee member is the Secretary, to the Chairperson. (GP)(R)
- (b) The committee member's resignation is effective: (GP)(R)
  - (i) At the time the notice is received by the Secretary or Chairperson under Clause 23.1(a)or (GP)(R)
  - (ii) If a later time is stated in the notice, at the later time. (GP)(R)

#### 23.2. Removal (M)

- (a) A committee member may only be removed from his or her position on the committee by ordinary resolution at a general meeting if a majority (more than 50%) <sup>(o)</sup> of the members present and eligible to vote at the general meeting vote in favour of the committee member's removal. <sup>(GP)(R)</sup>
- (b) The committee member who faces removal is to be allowed a full and fair opportunity at the general meeting to review the proposed ordinary resolution, and state their case as to why they should not be removed from their position on the committee. (GP)(R)
- (c) If all committee members are removed by ordinary resolution at a general meeting, the members shall, at the same general meeting, elect an interim committee. The interim committee shall, within two (2) months, hold a general meeting for the purpose of electing a new management committee. (GP)(R)

# 23.3. Assets and records of committee member who ceases to be a committee member $^{(M)}$

Upon ceasing to be a committee member, outgoing committee members are responsible for transferring all relevant assets and association's books to the new committee within fourteen (14) days <sup>(O)(GP)(R)</sup> of ceasing to be a committee member. <sup>(M)</sup>

#### 24. Officeholders

#### 24.1. Election of officeholders by committee<sup>(M)</sup>

An officeholder shall: (M)

- (a) Be elected by the committee, and (M)
- (b) Remain as an officeholder for as long as the committee deems fit. (M)

# 24.2. Chairperson(GP)(R)

- (a) The committee must elect a committee member as the Chairperson. (GP)(R)
- (b) The Chairperson: (GP)(R)

- (i) Must ensure that they consult with the Secretary regarding the business to be conducted at each committee meeting and each general meeting,  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (ii) May call committee meetings under Clause 25, (GP)(R)
- (iii) May chair committee meetings under Clause 25.1(c)(i) (GP)(R)
- (iv) May chair annual general meetings, general meetings and special meetings under Clause 14.12(a)  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (v) Must ensure that the minutes of general meetings or committee meetings are reviewed and signed as correct, and  ${}^{(GP)(R)}$
- (vi) Must carry out any other duties required of the Chairperson by this constitution. (GP)(R)

#### 24.3. Deputy Chairperson

The Deputy Chairperson shall perform the role of the Chairperson as and when required in the absence of the Chairperson.

# 24.4. Secretary (GP)(R)

The Secretary shall ensure the: (GP)(R)

- (a) Maintenance of a current delegation of authority, (GP)(R)
- (b) The co-ordination of correspondence of the association, (GP)(R)
- (c) Calling and holding of general meetings and committee meetings, (GP)(R)
- (d) In consultation with the Chairperson, preparation of notices of general meetings and committee meetings and the details of business to be conducted at each such meetings, (GP)(R)
- (e) Maintenance of the members register, (GP)(R)
- (f) Maintenance of the record of officeholders, (GP)(R)
- (g) Maintenance of the minutes, (GP)(R)
- (h) Safe custody of the association's books (with the exception of the accounting records), (GP)(R)
- (i) Safe custody and management of the association's record-keeping systems in hardcopy form, electronic form or a combination of forms, taking into account: (GP)(R)
  - (i) The nature of information to be stored and retrieved, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) The security and access of files and information (particularly computer records), (GP)(R)
  - (iii) The validity and reliability of the information collected and the system on which it is recorded,  $^{(GP)(R)}$
  - (iv) The resources and training required, and (GP)(R)
  - (v) The length of time that the records should be kept (minimum of 7 years or otherwise as required by other Acts or Regulations), (GP)(R)
- (j) Recording of full and correct minutes of committee meetings and general meetings and their maintenance in the minutes, (GP)(R)
- (k) Compliance with all reporting obligations to the Department of Commerce as varied from time to time. (GP)(R)
- (I) Performance of any other duties required of the Secretary by this constitution. (GP)(R)

# 24.5. Treasurer<sup>(GP)(R)</sup>

The Treasurer shall ensure the:

- (a) Collection of all moneys payable to the association are collected and the issuing of receipts in the name of the association for those monies, (GP)(R)
- (b) Payment of all monies received by the association into the account or accounts of the association as the committee may direct from time to time,  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (c) Timely payment of the expenses of the association from the funds of the association with the authority of the committee or a general meeting, (GP)(R)
- (d) Taking out by the association of all necessary insurances. (GP)(R)
- (e) Maintenance by the association of financial records that comply with the requirements of Clause 30.3.  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (f) Safe custody of financial records and any other relevant association records in hardcopy form,

electronic form or a combination of forms, taking into account:  ${}^{(GP)(R)}$ 

- (i) The nature of information to be stored and retrieved, (GP)(R)
- (ii) The security and access of files and information (particularly computer records), (GP)(R)
- (iii) The validity and reliability of the information collected and the system on which it is recorded,  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (iv) The resources and training required, and (GP)(R)
- (v) The length of time that the records should be kept (minimum of 7 years or otherwise as required by other Acts or Regulations), (GP)(R)
- (g) Co-ordination of the preparation of the financial statements prior to their submission to the annual general meeting, <sup>(O)</sup>
- (h) Co-ordination of the preparation of the reviewed financial report prior to its submission to the annual general meeting, <sup>(O)</sup>
- (i) Co-ordination of the preparation of the Auditor's report prior to its submission to the annual general meeting, <sup>(O)</sup>
- (j) Assistance of the reviewer or Auditor in performing their functions, and (O)
- (k) Performance of any other duties required of the Treasurer by this constitution. (GP)(R)

#### 24.6. Record of officeholders (M)

- (a) The Secretary shall ensure that a record of officeholders is maintained. (M)
- (b) The record of officeholders shall include: (M)
  - (i) Each officeholder's full name, (M)
  - (ii) Current postal, residential or email addresses for each officeholder, (M)
  - (iii) Details of the office held by each officeholder, (M)
  - (iv) Dates of appointment of each officeholder to their respective office, and (M)
  - (v) If applicable, dates of cessation of the appointment of each officeholder to their respective office. (M)
- (c) The record of officeholders shall be kept and maintained at such place as the committee decides.

#### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

# 25. Calling and conducting committee meetings<sup>(M)</sup>

# 25.1. Calling committee meetings<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) The committee shall hold no less than three (3)  $^{(O)(GP)}$  and no more than ten (10) $^{(O)}$  committee meetings in any one calendar year.  $^{(O)(GP)}$
- (b) The committee shall determine the place and time of all committee meetings. (O)(GP)
- (c) A committee meeting may be called by: (O)(GP)
  - (i) The Chairperson, or (O)(GP)
  - (ii) Any two committee members, (O)(GP)

by giving notice as per clause 25.2(a) to all other committee members. (M)

# 25.2. Notice<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) The Secretary shall ensure that each committee member is given at least forty-eight (48) hours' (O) notice of each committee meeting. (M)
- (b) Notice of a committee meeting shall specify the general nature of the business to be transacted at the committee meeting. (M)
- (c) Subject to Clause 25.2(d) only the business specified on the notice of the committee meeting is to be conducted at that committee meeting. (O)
- (d) Urgent business may be conducted at a committee meeting if the committee members present at the committee meeting unanimously agree to treat the business as urgent. (O)

# 25.3. Using technology to hold committee meeting<sup>(O)(M)(R)</sup>

- (a) Committee meeting may take place: (O)(M)(R)
  - (i) Where the committee members are physically present together, or O(M)(R)
  - (ii) By the use of any technology (such as video or teleconferencing) that is agreed to by all committee members, if it reasonably allows each committee member to participate fully in discussions and decisions as they happen in the committee meeting and provided that the participation of each committee member is made known to all other committee members in attendance. (O)(M)(R)
- (b) A committee member who participates in a committee meeting as set out in Clause 25.3(a): (O)(M)(R))
  - (i) Is deemed to be present at the committee meeting, and (O)(M)(R)
  - (ii) Continues to be present at the committee meeting for the purposes of establishing a quorum, until the committee member notifies the other committee members that they are no longer taking part in the committee meeting. (O)(M)(R)

# 25.4. Conducting committee meeting (M)

- (a) The Chairperson shall normally act as Meeting Chair of each committee meeting. (GP)
- (b) The committee members at a committee meeting may elect a committee member other than the Chairperson to be the Meeting Chair for that committee meeting if the Chairperson is: (GP)
  - (i) Not present within 30 minutes after the starting time set for the committee meeting, or (GP)
  - (ii) Present but does not want to act as Meeting Chair of the committee meeting. (GP)
- (c) The committee cannot conduct business unless the quorum specified in Clause 25.5 is present. (GP)
- (d) If, within half an hour of the time appointed for the committee meeting, the quorum specified in Clause 25.5 is not present the committee meeting is to stand adjourned to a time and place within the following week. (GP)
- (e) If at a committee meeting adjourned under Clause 25.4(d), the quorum specified in Clause 25.5 is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the committee meeting, the committee members personally present shall constitute a quorum. (GP)

- (f) Subject to this constitution, the committee members present at the committee meeting are to determine the procedure and order of business to be followed at the committee meeting. (GP)
- (g) All committee members have the right to attend and vote at committee meeting. (GP)
- (h) All members, or other guests, may attend committee meeting if invited by the committee, but the member or guest shall not have any right to:(GP)
  - (i) Comment without invitation, (GP)
  - (ii) Vote, (GP)
  - (iii) Be provided with copies of any agenda, minutes of meetings, or documents presented at such committee meeting. (GP)
- (i) The Secretary, or such person authorised by the committee from time to time, shall ensure that minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of all committee meeting are recorded and maintained together with a record of the names of persons present at each committee meeting.

#### 25.5. Quorum for committee meeting<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) Unless the committee determines otherwise, the quorum for a committee meeting shall be a majority (more than 50%)<sup>(O)</sup> of total committee members. <sup>(M)</sup>
- (b) A quorum must be present for the entire committee meeting. (M)

#### 26. Committee resolutions (M)

#### 26.1. Voting (M)

- (a) Each committee member present at a committee meeting has one vote. (GP)
- (b) A question arising at a committee meeting is to be decided by a majority (more than 50%) of votes, but, if there is an equality of votes, the Meeting Chair of the committee meeting is [NB: Alternative option "or is not"] entitled to exercise a second or casting vote (O).(GP)
- (c) Decisions at a committee meeting may be made by general agreement or by way of a show of hands. (O)
- (d) A poll by secret ballot may be used at a committee meeting if the committee prefers to determine a matter in this way, and if the Meeting Chair of the committee meeting supervises the ballot. (O)

# 26.2. Committee circular resolutions (O)(GP)

- (a) The committee may pass a circular resolution without a committee meeting being held (Committee Circular Resolution). (M) if you adopt circular resolutions
- (b) A committee circular resolution is passed if all the committee members entitled to vote on the resolution sign or otherwise agree to the resolution in the manner set out in Clause 26.2(c). (M) if you adopt circular resolutions
- (c) Each committee member may sign: (M) if you adopt circular resolutions
  - (i) A single document setting out the resolution and containing a statement that they agree to the committee circular resolution, or (M) if you adopt circular resolutions
  - (ii) Separate copies of that document, as long as the wording of the committee circular resolution is the same in each copy. (M) if you adopt circular resolutions
- (d) The association may send a committee circular resolution by email to the committee members and the committee members may agree to the committee circular resolution by sending a reply email to that effect, including the text of the committee circular resolution in their reply. (M) if you adopt circular resolutions
- (e) A committee circular resolution is passed when the last committee member signs or otherwise agrees to the committee circular resolution. (M) if you adopt circular resolutions

# 27. Remuneration of committee members (M)(R)(C)

# 27.1. Travelling and other expenses<sup>(M)(R)(C)</sup>

The association may pay a committee member's travelling and other expenses properly incurred, such as:  ${}^{(M)(R)(C)}$ 

- (a) Attending committee meeting or subcommittee meeting $^{(O)}$ ,  $^{(M)(R)(C)}$
- (b) Attending any general meeting, and (M)(R)(C)
- (c) In connection with the association's business. (M)(R)(C)

# 27.2. No other remuneration $^{(M)(R)(GP)(C)}$

Committee members shall not receive any remuneration for their services as committee members other than as described at Clause 27.1.  $^{(M)(R)(GP)(C)}$ 

#### SUBCOMMITTEES AND OTHER DELEGATION

# 28. Subcommittees and delegation (GP)(R)(O)

# 28.1. Establishment(GP)(R)(O)

- (a) The management committee may establish subcommittees from time to time to assist with the conduct of the association's object [and charitable] (C) purposes. (GP)(R)(O)
- (b) Subcommittees may comprise (in such numbers as the committee determines) members and non-members. (GP)(R)(O)
- (c) Subject to this constitution, subcommittee members shall determine the procedure to be followed at subcommittee meetings. (GP)(R)(O)

# 28.2. Delegation (GP)(R)(O)

- (a) The management committee may delegate, in writing, to any or all of the subcommittees, any authority, power or functions, and may cancel any authority, powers or functions, as the committee sees fit from time to time. (GP)(R)(O)
- (b) Despite any delegation under Clause 28.2(a), the committee may continue to exercise all its functions, including any function that has been delegated to a subcommittee and remains responsible for the exercise of those functions at all times. (GP)(R)(O)

# 28.3. Delegation to others (GP)(R)(O)

- (a) The committee may delegate, in writing, to any person any authority, power or function and may cancel any authority, powers or functions, as the committee sees fit from time to time. (GP)(R)(O)
- (b) Despite a delegation under this clause, the committee may continue to exercise all its functions, including any delegated functions, and at all times remains responsible for the exercise of those functions. (GP)(R)(O)

#### **FINANCES**

# 29. Payment of income or property to members (M)(R)(C)

# 29.1. Not permitted $^{(M)(R)(C)}$

Subject to Clause 29.2, none of the income or property of the association may be paid directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise, to a member.  $^{(M)(R)(C)}$ 

## 29.2. Permitted payments (M)(R)(C)

- (a) Clause 29.1 does not prevent: (M)(R)
  - (i) Subject to Clause 29.2(b) the payment in good faith of remuneration to any member, committee member, officer or employee in return for any services actually rendered to the association or for goods supplied to the association in the ordinary and usual course of business, <sup>(M)(R)</sup>
  - (ii) The payment of interest at a rate not exceeding the prevailing market rate published by the Reserve Bank of Australia as the 'Cash Rate Target' from time to time on money borrowed from any member, (GP)(R)
  - (iii) The payment of reasonable and proper rent by the association to a member for premises leased to the association by the member, or  ${}^{(GP)(R)}$
  - (iv) The reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for travel and accommodation incurred on behalf of the association by any member or committee member in connection with the member or committee member's functions as a member or committee member. (GP)(R)
- (b) Before a payment proposed to a member or committee member under Clause 29.2(a)(i) can be made, the payment must first be authorised by the members by way of an ordinary resolution. $^{(M)(R)}$

#### 30. Funds

# 30.1. Source of funds (GP)(R)

- (a) The funds of the association may be derived from: (GP)(R)
  - (i) Entrance fees, (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Annual membership fees, (GP)(R)
  - (iii) Donations, (GP)(R)
  - (iv) Fundraising activities, (GP)(R)
  - (v) Grants, (GP)(R)
  - (vi) Interest, and (GP)(R)
  - (vii) Any other sources approved by the committee. (GP)(R)
- (b) The association shall, as soon as practicable: (M)(R)
  - (i) Deposit all money received to the credit of the association's bank account, without deduction, and  $^{(M)(R)}$
  - (ii) After receiving any money, issue an appropriate receipt. (M)(R)

#### 30.2. Control of funds (M)

- (a) The funds of the association shall be kept in an account in the name of the association in a financial institution determined by the committee. (M)(GP)(R)
- (b) The association shall use its funds in carrying out the association's object [and charitable]  $^{(C)}$  purposes.  $^{(M)(GP)(R)}$
- (c) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments of the association shall be signed by: (M)(GP)(R)
  - (i) Any two committee members, or (M)(GP)(R)
  - (ii) One committee member and another person authorized by the committee. (M)(GP)(R)
- (d) All expenditure above the maximum amount set by the committee from time to time shall be

approved or ratified at a committee meeting.  ${}^{(M)(GP)(R)}$ 

#### **30.3.** Financial records<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) The association shall keep financial records that: (M)
  - (i) Correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance, and (M)
  - (ii) Enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared. (M)
- (b) The association shall retain its financial records for at least 7 years after the transactions covered by the financial records are completed. (M)

#### **BINDING THE ASSOCIATION**

# 31. Use of common seal (M)(O)(R)

- (a) The association may decide to have a common seal on which its corporate name appears in legible characters. (M)(O)(R)
- (b) If the association does decide to have a common seal under Clause 31(a): (M)(O)(R)
  - (i) The Secretary shall ensure its safe custody, and  $^{(M)(O)(R)}$
  - (ii) It shall only be used under resolution of the committee. (M)(O)(R)
- (c) The association shall sign off on a document without using a common seal (if any) if the document is signed by two committee members. (M)(O)(R)
- (d) The association shall sign off on a document using its common seal (if any), if the fixing of the common seal is witnessed by:  ${}^{(M)(O)(R)}$ 
  - (i) Any two committee members, or (M)(O)(R)
  - (ii) One committee member and another person authorised by the committee. (M)(O)(R)
- (e) The Secretary shall ensure that every use of the common seal is recorded in the minutes. (M)(O)(R)

#### **MINUTES, BOOKS AND RECORDS**

#### 32. Minutes<sup>(M)</sup>

#### **32.1.** Taking of minutes<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) The association shall keep minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of all annual general meeting, general meeting special meeting together with a record of the names of persons present at each meeting.<sup>(M)</sup>
- (b) The minutes of the annual general meeting, general meeting, and special meeting are to be entered into the Minute Book within 30 days <sup>(O)</sup> of the date of the annual general meeting, general meeting, and special meeting. <sup>(O)</sup>

# 32.2. Review and signing of minutes(GP)(R)

- (a) The Chairperson shall ensure that the minutes of an annual general meeting, general meeting, and special meeting are reviewed and signed as correct by: (GP)(R)
  - (i) The Meeting Chair of the annual general meeting, general meeting, and special meeting to which those minutes relate, or (GP)(R)
  - (ii) The Meeting Chair of the next succeeding annual general meeting, general meeting, and special meeting. (GP)(R)
- (b) When minutes have been entered and signed as correct under Clause 32.2(a) they are: (GP)(R)
  - (i) To be entered in the minute book, and <sup>(O)</sup>
  - (ii) Until the contrary is proved, evidence that: (GP)(R)
    - (A) The annual general meeting, general meeting, and special meeting to which they relate was duly called and held,  $^{(GP)(R)}$
    - (B) All proceedings recorded as having taken place at the annual general meeting,

- general meeting, and special meeting did in fact take place at the meeting, and (GP)(R)
- (C) All appointments or elections purporting to have been made at the annual general meeting, general meeting, and special meeting were validly made. (GP)(R)

# 32.3. Inspection of minutes (M)

- (a) The minutes of annual general meeting, general meeting or special meetings may be inspected by a member under Clause 33.3. (M)
- (b) The minutes of committee meetings may be inspected by a member under Clause 33.3 unless the committee determines that the minutes of committee meeting generally, or the minutes of a specific committee meeting, are not to be made available for inspection by a member. (GP)(R)

#### 33. Records (M)

#### 33.1. Inspecting record of officeholders (M)

- (a) Any member is able to inspect the record of officeholders free of charge, at such time and place as is mutually convenient to the association and the member. (M)
- (b) The member may make a copy of details from the record of officeholders, but has no right to remove the record of Officeholders for that purpose. (M)

# 33.2. Custody of association's books (M)

- (a) Except as otherwise decided by the committee from time to time: (GP)(R)
  - (i) The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring the maintenance and control of the association's books (except for the association's financial records). (GP)(R)
  - (ii) The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring the custody and maintenance of the association's financial records and securities. (GP)(R)
    - (A) The committee shall be responsible for ensuring the maintenance and control of the association's books including the association's financial records and securities.
- (b) The association's books shall be retained for at least 7 years. (M)

# 33.3. Inspecting association's books<sup>(M)</sup>

- (a) Subject to this constitution, a member is able to inspect the association's books free of charge at such time and place as is mutually convenient to the association and the member. (M)
- (b) A member shall contact the Secretary to request to inspect the association's books. (M)
- (c) The member may copy details from the association's books but has no right to remove the association's books for that purpose. (M)

#### 33.4. Prohibition on use of information in association's books and record of officeholders (M)

A member shall not use or disclose information in the association's books and record of officeholders except for a purpose: (M)

- (a) That is directly connected with the affairs of the association, or (M)
- (b) Related to a requirement of the associations Act to provide information to the Commissioner. (M)

# 33.5. Returning the association's books (M)

Outgoing committee members are responsible for transferring all relevant assets and association's books to the new committee within fourteen (14) days O(GP)(R) of ceasing to be a committee member.

#### **DISPUTES**

# 34. Disputes arising under constitution (M)

- (a) This clause applies to: (M)
  - (i) Disputes between members, and <sup>(M)</sup>
  - (ii) Disputes between the association and one or more members that arise under the constitution or relate to the constitution.  $^{(M)}$
- (b) In this Clause 35, the term **member** includes any former member whose membership ceased not more than six (6) months before the dispute occurred (GP)(R)(O)
- (c) The parties to a dispute shall attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within fourteen (14) days <sup>(O)</sup> of the dispute coming to the attention of each party. <sup>(GP)(R)</sup>
- (d) If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute, any party to the dispute may initiate a procedure under this Clause 34 by giving written notice to the Secretary of the parties to, and details of, the dispute. (GP)(R)
- (e) The association shall hold a committee meeting within twenty-eight (28) days <sup>(O)</sup> after the Secretary receives notice of the dispute under Clause 34(d) for the committee to determine the dispute. <sup>(GP)(R)</sup>
- (f) At the committee meeting to determine the dispute, all parties to the dispute shall be given a full and fair opportunity to state their respective cases orally, in writing, or both. (GP)(R)
- (g) The Secretary shall inform the parties to the dispute of the committee's decision and the reasons for the decision within 7 days <sup>(O)</sup> after the committee meeting referred to in Clause 34(e). <sup>(GP)(R)</sup>
- (h) If any party to the dispute is dissatisfied with the decision of the committee, they may elect to initiate further dispute resolution procedures as set out in the constitution. (GP)(R)

#### 35. Mediation<sup>(GP)(R)</sup>

- (a) This Clause 35 applies: (GP)(R)
  - (i) Where a person is dissatisfied with a decision made by the committee under Clause 34(g) or  ${}^{(GP)(R)}$
  - (ii) Where a dispute arises between a member or more than one member and the association and any party to the dispute elects not to have the matter determined by the committee.  $^{(GP)(R)}$
- (b) If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by Clause 34(c) or a party to a dispute is dissatisfied with a decision made under Clause 34(g) a party to a dispute may: (GP)(R)
  - (i) Provide written notice to the Secretary identifying the parties to, and the details of, the dispute, and (GP)(R)
  - (ii) Agree to, or request the appointment of, a mediator to resolve the dispute. (GP)(R)
- (c) The Secretary shall then ensure that a meditator is appointed to resolve the dispute who shall be: (GP)(R)
  - (i) A person chosen by agreement between the parties to the dispute, or (GP)(R)
  - (ii) In the absence of agreement between the parties to the dispute, a mediator appointed by the committee.  ${}^{(GP)(R)}$
- (d) Where the dispute relates to a proposal for the suspension or expulsion of a member this Clause 35 does not apply until the procedure under Clause 12 in respect of the proposed suspension or expulsion has been completed. (GP)(R)
- (e) The party or parties requesting the mediation shall pay the costs of the mediation. (GP)(R)
- (f) The mediator can be a member provided the member is not a party to the dispute. (GP)(R)
- (g) The parties to the dispute shall attempt to settle the dispute by mediation in good faith. (GP)(R)
- (h) The parties are to exchange written statements of the issues that are in dispute between them and supply copies to the mediator at least five (5) days <sup>(O)</sup> before the date of the mediation.

(GP)(R)

- (i) The mediator, in conducting the mediation, shall:
  - (i) Give the parties to the mediation every opportunity to be heard,
  - (ii) Allow all parties to consider any written statement submitted by any party, and
  - (iii) Ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the mediation.
- (j) The mediation shall be confidential.
- (k) Information provided by the parties in the course of the mediation cannot be used in any other legal proceedings that may take place in relation to the dispute.

# 36. Inability to resolve dispute (M)

If a dispute cannot be resolved under the procedures set out in Clauses 34 and 35, any party to the dispute may apply to the Administrative Tribunal to determine the dispute in accordance with the associations Act or otherwise at law. (M)

#### **SERVICE OF NOTICES**

# 37. Legal requirements<sup>(M)</sup>

A notice or other communication in relation to this constitution has no legal effect unless it is in writing and given as follows:  $^{(M)}$ 

- (a) Delivered by hand to the nominated address of the addressee, (M)
- (b) Sent by post to the nominated postal address of the addressee, or (M)
- (c) Sent by e-mail or any other method of electronic communication (including facsimile transmission) to the nominated electronic address of the addressee. (M)

# 38. Service on members<sup>(M)</sup>

Any notice given to a member under this constitution shall be sent to the member's address as recorded in the members register. (M)

#### INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE (O)

# 39. Indemnity<sup>(0)</sup>

- (a) The association shall indemnify each committee member out of the assets of the association against all losses and liabilities (including costs, expenses and charges) incurred by that person as a committee member:
  - (i) When the association is not prevented by law from doing so, and
  - (ii) For an amount for which the committee member is not entitled to indemnity from another party (including an insurer under an insurance policy).
- (b) The indemnity in Clause 39(a) is a continuing obligation and is enforceable by a committee member even though that person is no longer a committee member of the association. (O)

#### **40.** Committee Member's insurance<sup>(0)</sup>

To the extent permitted by law, and if the committee consider it appropriate, the association may pay or agree to pay a premium for a contract insuring a person who is or has been a committee member against any liability incurred by the committee member. (O)

# 41. Insurance covering workers, contractors, volunteers and visitors (O)

The association shall ensure that appropriate insurance is obtained for:

- a) The association's workers,
- b) The association's contractors,

- c) The association's volunteers, and
- d) The association's visitors.

#### **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

# 42. Safe and healthy working environment (O)

The association is aware of its obligation to provide a safe and healthy working environment for its employees, contractors, volunteers and visitors and to remain familiar with the requirements of the *Occupational Safety* and *Health Act 1984* (WA) and the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations* 1996 (WA) and any amendments to these legal instruments made from time to time (**OSH Laws**).

# 43. Occupational Safety and Health obligations (O)

The association shall ensure that:

- (a) Where required, it obtains workers compensation insurance for its workers.
- (b) Where required, it obtains insurance to cover its:
  - (i) Contractors,
  - (ii) Volunteers, and
  - (iii) Visitors.
- (c) It complies with its obligations under the OSH laws, including any obligation:
  - To complete a workers compensation claim form and submit it to the association's workers compensation insurer if a worker is injured while at work, and
  - (ii) to notify the WorkSafe WA Commissioner if an injury to a worker involves:
    - (A) A work-related death, or
    - (B) One of the following injuries or diseases:
      - (1) A fracture of the skull, spine or pelvis,
      - (2) A fracture of any bone in the arm (other than in the wrists or hand) or in the leg (other than a bone in the ankle or foot),
      - (3) An amputation of an arm, a hand, finger, finger joint, leg, foot, toe or toe joint,
      - (4) The loss of sight of an eye,
      - (5) Any injury other than those set out in Clauses 44(c)(ii) (B)(i) to 44(c)(ii) (B)(4), in the opinion of a medical practitioner, is likely to prevent the worker from being able to work within ten (10) days of the day on which the injury occurred,
      - (6) Infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, viral hepatitis, legionnaires' disease and HIV, where the disease is contracted during work involving exposure to human blood products, body secretions, excretions or other material which may be a source of infection, and
      - (7) Occupational zoonoses such as Q fever, anthrax, leptospiroses and brucellosis, where the disease is contracted during work involving the handling of, or contact with, animals, animal hides, skins, wool, hair, carcases or animal waste products.

#### **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

## 44. Constitution (M)

# 44.1. Binding (M)

This constitution imposes a legally binding obligation upon the association and upon each member to observe all of its Clauses. (M)

#### 44.2. Amendment (M)

- (a) The association may amend the constitution or replace it with a new constitution by passing a special resolution. (M)
  - (a) The association shall not pass a special resolution amending the constitution if passing it causes the association to no longer be a charity  ${}^{(O)(C)}$ ]
- (b) An amendment to the constitution changing: (M)
  - (i) The association's name, or <sup>(M)</sup>
  - (ii) The association's object or purposes, (M)

does not become effective until:

- (iii) The required documents are lodged with the Commissioner, and <sup>(M)</sup>
- (iv) The Commissioner's written approval to the changes is received by the association. (M)

#### 44.3. Copies (M)

- (a) The association shall maintain a current copy of the constitution at all times. (M)
- (b) The association shall provide, free of charge, a copy of the constitution then in force, to each member at the time their membership commences. (M)

# 45. By-laws (O)

# 45.1. Power and purpose (O)

Provided that they are not inconsistent with the constitution or the associations Act, the members may make, amend and repeal by-laws for the management of the association by way of an ordinary resolution at an annual general meeting or a special general meeting. (O)

#### 45.2. Not of constitution and not required to be lodged (O)

Any by-laws made under Clause 45.1 do not form part of the constitution and are not required to be lodged with the Commissioner.  $^{(O)}$ 

#### WINDING UP, CANCELLATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

# 46. Cessation of activities, winding up and cancellation of incorporation<sup>(M)(C)</sup>

- (a) The association may cease its activities and have its incorporation cancelled in accordance with the associations Act if the members resolve by special resolution that the association is  $to:^{(M)(R)}$ 
  - (i) Apply to the Commissioner seeking the cancellation of the association's incorporation, or (M)(R)
  - (ii) Appoint a liquidator to wind up the association's affairs.
- (b) If the association has outstanding debts or any other outstanding legal obligations, or is a party to any current legal proceedings, the association must be wound up under Clause 46(a)(a)(ii) before cancellation of incorporation can take place. (M)(R)

# 47. Surplus assets not to be distributed to members (M)(C)

If the association is wound up, any surplus assets must not be distributed to a member or a former member, unless that member or former member is an entity described in Clause 48.  $\frac{(M)(C)}{C}$ 

#### 48. Distribution of surplus assets<sup>(M)(C)</sup>

- (a) Subject to the associations Act, any other applicable law and any court order, any surplus assets that remain after the association is wound up shall be distributed to one or more not-for-profit organisations that: (M)(C)(R)
  - (i) Possess an object [and charitable] (C) purposes similar to, or inclusive of, the object [and charitable] (C) purposes of the association as set out in Clause 4, and (M)(C)(R)
  - (ii) Which also prohibit the distribution of any surplus assets to its members to at least the same extent as the association.  $^{(M)(C)(R)}$
- (b) The decision as to the not-for-profit organisation or organisations to receive the surplus assets of the association shall be made by a special resolution of members at or before the time of winding up.<sup>(M)</sup>
- (c) If the members do not make the decision set out in Clause 48(b) the association may make application to the Courts of Western Australia and request that the courts make this decision. (M)