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# Constitution of Queensland Council of Social Service Ltd

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# **Constitution of Queensland Council of Social Service Ltd**

## **Introduction**

### **1. Replaceable rules excluded**

1.1 The replaceable rules contained in the Act do not apply to the Company.

### **2. Definitions and interpretation**

#### **2.1 Definitions**

In this constitution:

- (1) **ACNC** means the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission;
- (2) **ACNC Act** means the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*;
- (3) **ACOSS** means the Australian Council of Social Service;
- (4) **Act** means the *Corporations Act 2001* and includes any amendment or re-enactment of it or any legislation passed in substitution for it;
- (5) **ASIC** means the Australian Securities & Investments Commission;
- (6) **business day** means a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday or bank holiday in the place where the Company has its registered office;
- (7) **Company** means Queensland Council of Social Service Ltd ABN 11 781 477 447;
- (8) **corporate member** means a member which is a body corporate;
- (9) **COSS network** means the network of Councils of Social Service which operate throughout Australia;
- (10) **directors** means the directors for the time being of the Company or the directors assembled as a board;

- (11) **Elected Director** has the meaning given to that term in rule 28;
- (12) **Foundation Members** means the persons who are members of the Incorporated Association at the date the transfer of incorporation to the Company is effected with ASIC;
- (13) **Government Employee** means an individual who is employed by a government entity (as that term is defined in the *Charities Act 2013* (Cth)). For the avoidance of any doubt, a Government Employee includes an employee of a local government;
- (14) **Incorporated Association** means the incorporated body known as the Queensland Council of Social Service Inc;
- (15) **Nominated Director** has the meaning given to that term in rule 29;
- (16) **Regional Member** means an individual member who resides in a regional centre beyond the local government boundaries of either the Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council, Logan City Council, Moreton Bay Regional Council or Redland City Council; and
- (17) **secretary** means the person appointed to perform the duties of a secretary of the Company.

## 2.2 Interpretation

- (1) Reference to:
  - (a) one gender includes the others;
  - (b) the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular; and
  - (c) a person includes a body corporate.
- (2) Except so far as the contrary intention appears in this constitution:
  - (a) an expression has in this constitution the same meaning as in the Act; and
  - (b) if an expression is given different meanings for the purposes of different provisions of the Act, the expression has, in a provision of this constitution that deals with a matter dealt with by a particular provision of the Act, the same meaning as in that provision of the Act.
- (3) "Including" and similar expressions are not words of limitation.
- (4) Headings and any table of contents or index are for convenience only and do not form part of this constitution or affect its interpretation.

## 3. Objects

### 3.1 The objects for which the Company is established are:

- (1) to contribute to the relief of poverty, sickness and other misfortune and to the promotion of the wellbeing of individuals, groups and communities who are



disadvantaged and vulnerable either socially, physically, intellectually or emotionally (**Social Welfare**);

- (2) to advocate for all residents of Queensland to have access to services and resources which mitigate the impacts of poverty on their lives and future;
- (3) to work towards the elimination of poverty in Queensland by influencing social and economic policy through partnerships, research, education and advocacy;
- (4) to represent the non-government sector to the Government, businesses, philanthropic networks and the public to ensure strong, diverse and effective organisations are accessible in local communities across Queensland;
- (5) to carry out programs designed to contribute to the elimination of poverty and the promotion of Social Welfare;
- (6) to work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies, individuals and community stakeholders to promote self-determination and address the level of poverty in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the consequences of such poverty; and
- (7) to work in partnership with ACOSS and the COSS network across Australia to address social disadvantage, to promote Social Welfare and to represent non-government organisations to State and Federal Governments in the creation of Social Welfare public policy.

3.2 The Company must pursue charitable purposes only and must apply its income in promoting those purposes.

#### **4. Powers**

*[compare section 124]*

- 4.1 The Company has all the powers of an individual and a body corporate but does not have the power to issue shares.
- 4.2 Despite rule 4.1 the powers of the Company are ancillary to and exercisable only to pursue the objects of the Company set out in rule 3.

#### **5. Application of income and property**

*[compare sections 125 and 150]*

- 5.1 The income and property of the Company, from wherever it is derived, must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Company set out in rule 3.

#### **6. No distribution to members**

*[compare section 150]*

- 6.1 No portion of the income or property of the Company may be paid directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise to the members of the Company.
- 6.2 Rule 6.1 does not prevent:

- (1) the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officer, servant or member of the Company in return for any services actually rendered to the Company or for goods supplied in the ordinary and usual way of business;
- (2) the payment of interest at a rate not exceeding 12% per annum on money borrowed from any member of the Company;
- (3) the payment of reasonable and proper rent by the Company to a member of the Company for premises leased by the member to the Company; or
- (4) the reimbursement of expenses incurred by any member on behalf of the Company.

## **7. Limited liability**

7.1 The liability of the members is limited.

## **8. Guarantee**

*[compare section 117]*

8.1 Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding \$10 to the property of the Company in the event of its being wound up while the member is a member or within 1 year after the member ceases to be a member, if required for payment:

- (1) of the debts and liabilities of the Company (contracted before the member ceases to be a member);
- (2) of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- (3) for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

## **Membership**

### **9. Number of members**

9.1 The number of members for which the Company proposes to be registered is unlimited.

### **10. Membership**

10.1 The members of the Company are:

- (1) the Foundation Members; and
- (2) any other persons the directors admit to membership in accordance with this constitution.

## **11. Categories of membership**

11.1 The categories of membership are:

- (1) individual members;
- (2) organisational members;
- (3) associate members; and
- (4) honorary life members.

11.2 Additional categories of members, if recommended by the directors, may be created from time to time by the members in general meeting.

## **12. Application for individual membership**

12.1 Any individual who is not less than 18 years of age at the date of application may apply for individual membership of the Company.

## **13. Application for organisational membership**

13.1 Any body, whether incorporated or unincorporated, which is:

- (1) a not-for-profit and non-government organisation; and
- (2) is engaged or has an interest in some form of social, community or health service or Social Welfare;

may apply for organisational membership of the Company.

## **14. Application for associate membership**

14.1 Any body, whether incorporated or unincorporated, which is not an organisational member may apply for associate membership of the Company.

14.2 Despite anything in this constitution to the contrary, an associate member:

- (1) has the right to receive notices of and to attend and be heard at any general meeting; but
- (2) has no right to vote at any general meeting; and
- (3) may not be appointed as a director of the Company.

## **15. Honorary life membership**

15.1 If, in the opinion of the directors, a person has provided outstanding services to the community, or because of some other qualification that is recognised by the directors, the directors may nominate that person as an honorary life member of the Company.

- 15.2 Despite anything in this constitution to the contrary, an honorary life member:
- (1) has the right to receive notices of and to attend and be heard at any general meeting; but
  - (2) has no right to vote at any general meeting; and
  - (3) may not be appointed as a director of the Company.

## 16. Form of application

- 16.1 An application for membership must be:
- (1) in writing in a form approved by the directors;
  - (2) signed by the applicant; and
  - (3) accompanied by any other documents or evidence as to qualification for the type of membership applied for which the directors require.
- 16.2 If the applicant is not an individual member, it must nominate 1 person (**nominated representative**) to represent it in the Company. The application form must:
- (1) state the name and address of the nominated representative; and
  - (2) be signed by the nominated representative.
- 16.3 An application form must be accompanied by the annual membership fee, determined in accordance with rule 21.1.

## 17. Admission to membership

- 17.1 The directors must consider an application for membership as soon as practicable after its receipt and determine, in their discretion, the admission or rejection of the applicant.
- 17.2 If an application for membership is made in respect of an unincorporated association then the nominated representative for that association must be recorded as the member in respect of the unincorporated association and, notwithstanding any other provision in this constitution, is the only person to be recognised by the Company as member.
- 17.3 The directors need give no reason for the rejection of an application.
- 17.4 If an application for membership is rejected the annual membership fee must be refunded to the applicant.
- 17.5 If an applicant is accepted for membership:
- (1) the secretary must notify the applicant of admission in the form of a receipt for the annual membership fee or in any other form the directors determine; and
  - (2) the name and details of the member must be entered in the register of members.

## **18. Notification by members**

- 18.1 Each member must promptly notify the secretary in writing of any change in their qualification to be a member of the Company.
- 18.2 Each organisational and associate member must promptly notify the secretary in writing of any change in the person nominated as its nominated representative under rule 16.2.
- 18.3 A person nominated as a nominated representative must consent to the nomination in writing.

## **19. Foundation members**

- 19.1 Foundation Members are not required to have any qualification for membership.
- 19.2 Foundation Members must otherwise comply with this constitution.

## **20. Register of members**

*[compare sections 168 and 169]*

- 20.1 A register of members of the Company must be kept in accordance with the Act.
- 20.2 The following must be entered in the register of members in respect of each member:
  - (1) the full name of the member;
  - (2) the residential address, facsimile number and electronic mail address, if any, of the member;
  - (3) the category of membership;
  - (4) the date of admission to and cessation of membership;
  - (5) the date of last payment of the member's annual membership;
  - (6) in the case of an organisational or associate member, the full name, address, facsimile number and electronic mail address, if any, of its nominated representative; and
  - (7) such other information as the directors require.
- 20.3 Each member and nominated representative must notify the secretary in writing of any change in that person's name, address, facsimile number or electronic mail address within 1 month after the change.

## **Annual membership fee**

### **21. Annual membership fee**

- 21.1 The annual membership fee payable by a member of the Company is the sum the directors determine and the Company approves in a general meeting.
- 21.2 All annual membership fees are due and payable in advance every year on the date of the anniversary of the member being admitted to membership.
- 21.3 No annual membership fee is payable by any honorary life member.

### **22. Unpaid membership fee**

- 22.1 If:
- (1) the annual membership fee of a member remains unpaid for 2 months after it becomes payable; and
  - (2) a notice of default is given to the member following a resolution of the directors to do this;
- the member ceases to be entitled to any of the rights or privileges of membership but these may be reinstated on payment of all arrears if the directors see fit.

## **Cessation of membership**

### **23. Resignation**

- 23.1 A member may resign from membership of the Company by giving written notice to the secretary.
- 23.2 The resignation of a member takes effect on the date of receipt of the notice of resignation or any later date provided in the notice.

### **24. Failure to pay**

- 24.1 If a member has not paid all arrears of annual membership fees under rule 21 or the member's rights and privileges are not reinstated:
- (1) the member remains liable for all the obligations and liabilities of membership until the expiration of 6 months after the date of notification under rule 22.1(2); and
  - (2) the member ceases to be a member and the member's name must be removed from the register of members at the expiration of the 6 month period.

## **25. Cessation of membership**

25.1 A member who is an individual ceases to be a member:

- (1) on the death of the member; or
- (2) if the member's membership is cancelled under rule 26.

25.2 An organisational or associate member ceases to be a member:

- (1) if it is wound up or is otherwise dissolved or deregistered; or
- (2) if its membership is cancelled under rule 26.

25.3 An honorary life member ceases to be a member:

- (1) if the member is an individual, in accordance with rule 25.1; or
- (2) if the directors, for any reason, request in writing the resignation of the member and the member does not resign within 2 months after the request is sent.

## **26. Cancellation of membership**

26.1 If any member:

- (1) wilfully refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of this constitution; or
- (2) is guilty of any conduct which, in the opinion of the directors, is unbecoming of a member or prejudicial to the interests of the Company;

the directors may resolve to cancel the member's membership of the Company and, in the case of cancellation, to remove the member's name from the register of members.

26.2 At least 1 week before the meeting of the directors at which a resolution of the nature referred to in rule 26.1 is passed the directors must give to the member notice of:

- (1) the meeting;
- (2) what is alleged against the member; and
- (3) the intended resolution.

26.3 At the meeting and before the passing of the resolution, the member must have an opportunity of giving orally or in writing any explanation or defence the member sees fit.

26.4 A resolution of directors to cancel a membership under rule 26.1 must be passed by a 2/3 majority of all directors.

26.5 A member may, by notice in writing lodged with the secretary at least 24 hours before the time for holding the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered by the directors, elect to have the question dealt with by the Company in general meeting and in that event, a general meeting of the Company must be called for that purpose.

- 26.6 If at the meeting a resolution to the same effect as the resolution which was to be considered by the directors is passed by a majority of 2/3 of those present and voting (and the vote must be taken by ballot), the membership of the member must be cancelled and the member's name must be removed from the register of members.

## **27. Effect of cessation of membership**

- 27.1 If any member ceases to be a member under this constitution, the member remains liable to pay to the Company for any money which, at the time of the member ceasing to be a member, the member owes to the Company on any account and for any sum not exceeding \$10 for which the member is liable under rule 8 of this constitution.

## **Appointment of directors**

### **28. Number of directors**

*[compare section 201A]*

- 28.1 The number of the directors must be not fewer than 7 nor more than 9.

- 28.2 The directors will comprise:

- (1) up to 2 Nominated Directors; and
- (2) up to 7 Elected Directors.

- 28.3 At least 3 of the directors must be Regional Members.

### **29. Nominated Directors**

- 29.1 Nominated Directors do not need to satisfy any of the qualifications for Elected Directors specified in rule 30.

- 29.2 The Nominated Directors are nominated by the directors for election by the members in accordance with rule 34.

- 29.3 If the directors choose to nominate any person for election as a director under rule 29.2, they may have regard to the specific skills of any nominee.

### **30. Elected Directors' qualifications**

- 30.1 A person may only be an Elected Director of the Company if:

- (1) that person is an individual member of the Company;
- (2) that person is not an employee of the Company;
- (3) that person is not a Government Employee; and



- (4) that person's primary employment or activity is with a not-for-profit entity (as that term is used in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cth)).

### **31. First directors**

- 31.1 The first directors are those named in the application for registration of the Company with ASIC who will be the members of the management committee of the Incorporated Association at the time of registration of the Company.
- 31.2 The first directors will be subject to the election procedures specified in rule 32 at the first annual general meeting and beyond.

### **32. Election of directors**

*[compare section 201E and replaceable rule 201G]*

- 32.1 At each annual general meeting of the Company, 1/3 of the directors for the time being or, if their number is not 3 or a multiple of 3, then the number nearest to but not exceeding 1/3, retire from office but no director may retain office for more than 3 years without submitting himself or herself for re-election even though the submission results in more than 1/3 of the directors retiring from office.
- 32.2 The director or directors to retire at an annual general meeting are those who have been longest in office since their election. For the purposes of determining the director or directors to retire, regard must be had to the length of prior service had by each director in his or her capacity as a management committee member of the Incorporated Association.
- 32.3 As between or among 2 or more directors who become directors on the same day, the director or directors to retire are determined by lot unless they otherwise agree between or among themselves.
- 32.4 A retiring director is eligible for re-election without the necessity of giving any previous notice of his or her intention to submit himself or herself for re-election.
- 32.5 Unless the directors decide to reduce the number of directors in office, the Company at any annual general meeting at which any director retires may fill the vacated office by re-electing the retiring director or electing some other qualified person.
- 32.6 If at the annual general meeting the vacating office is not filled, the retiring director, if willing and not disqualified, must be treated as re-elected unless the directors decide to reduce the number of directors in office or a resolution for the re-election of that director is put and lost.

### **33. Nomination for election**

- 33.1 Each candidate for election as an Elected Director must:
- (1) be proposed by an individual member or the nominated representative of an organisational member; and

- (2) be seconded by another individual member or the nominated representative of another organisational member;

both of whom must be current financial members of the Company at the time of nomination.

- 33.2 No individual member or nominated representative of an organisational member may propose more than 1 person as a candidate but may second more than 1 nomination.
- 33.3 A nomination of a candidate for election must:
  - (1) be in writing;
  - (2) be signed by the candidate; and
  - (3) be signed by the proposer and seconder.
- 33.4 A nomination of a candidate for election must be received at the registered office of the Company not later than 5pm on the day which is 30 days prior to the annual general meeting at which the candidate seeks election.
- 33.5 A list of the candidates' names in alphabetical order together with the proposers' and seconders' names must be sent to members with the notice of the annual general meeting.

#### **34. Election procedure – directors**

- 34.1 If the number of candidates for election as directors, whether the candidates are standing for election as either Nominated Directors or Elected Directors, is equal to or less than the number of vacancies on the board, the chair of the annual general meeting must declare those candidates to be duly elected as directors according to their nomination.
- 34.2 If the number of candidates for election as directors is greater than the number of vacancies on the board, a ballot must be held for the election of the candidates.
- 34.3 If a ballot is required:
  - (1) balloting lists must be prepared listing the names of the candidates in alphabetical order and specifying whether the candidate is standing for election either as a Nominated Director or Elected Director; and
  - (2) a member may exercise their vote by way of postal ballot.
- 34.4 The ballot and balloting lists must be sent to each person entitled to vote with the notice of the annual general meeting.
- 34.5 If a member chooses to exercise their vote by way of postal ballot under rule 34.3(2), a completed ballot must be received at the registered office of the Company not later than 5pm on the day which is 14 days prior to the annual general meeting for the vote to be counted.
- 34.6 At the annual general meeting each person entitled to vote and voting on the ballot and who has not exercised their vote by way of postal ballot under rule 34.5 may vote for a number of candidates equal to the number of vacancies.

- 34.7 The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes cast in their favour must be declared by the chair of the meeting to be elected as directors.
- 34.8 If an equality of votes would otherwise prevent the successful candidate for a vacancy from being determined, the chair, prior to the declaration of the result of the ballot, in addition to his or her deliberative vote (if any) is entitled to a casting vote, except that if the chair:
- (1) does not exercise a casting vote; or
  - (2) is one of the candidates who received the same number of votes;
- then the names of the candidates who received the same number of votes must be put to a further ballot immediately.
- 34.9 There is not a vacancy for the purpose of this rule 34 (or rules 36 or 37) because the number of directors is less than the maximum allowed under rule 28.1. There is a vacancy only if the number of directors is less than the number elected at the previous annual general meeting (adjusted for any increase under rule 36.1).

## **35. Time appointment or retirement takes effect**

- 35.1 Directors who are appointed at a meeting of members take office immediately after the end of the meeting.
- 35.2 Directors who retire at a meeting of members continue to hold office until the end of the meeting.

## **Appointment of directors between AGMs**

### **36. Casual vacancies and additional directors**

*[compare replaceable rules 201G and 201H]*

- 36.1 The Company in general meeting may by resolution and the directors may at any time appoint a person qualified to be a director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing directors, but so that the total number of directors does not at any time exceed the number fixed in accordance with this constitution.
- 36.2 Any director appointed under rule 36.1 holds office until the termination of the next annual general meeting of the Company and is then eligible for re-election.

### **37. Insufficient directors**

*[compare replaceable rule 201H]*

- 37.1 In the event of a vacancy in the office of a director, the remaining directors may act, but if the number of remaining directors is not sufficient to constitute a quorum at a meeting of directors, they may act only for the purpose of increasing the number of directors to a number sufficient to constitute a quorum or convening a general meeting of the Company.

## **Powers of directors**

### **38. Validation of acts of directors and secretaries**

*[compare sections 201M and 204E]*

- 38.1 The acts of a director or secretary of the Company are valid despite any defect that may afterwards be discovered in his or her appointment or qualification.
- 38.2 Where a person whose office as director of the Company is vacated under a provision of the Act purports to do an act as a director of the Company, that act is as valid, in relation to a person dealing with the Company in good faith and for value and without actual knowledge of the matter because of which the office was vacated, as if the office had not been vacated.

### **39. General business management**

*[compare replaceable rule 198A]*

- 39.1 The business of the Company is to be managed by or under the direction of the directors.
- 39.2 The directors may exercise all the powers of the Company except any powers that the Act or this constitution requires the Company to exercise in general meeting.
- 39.3 A rule made or resolution passed by the Company in general meeting does not invalidate any prior act of the directors which would have been valid if that rule or resolution had not been made or passed.

### **40. Borrowing powers**

- 40.1 Without limiting the generality of rule 39, but subject to rule 6, the directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to borrow money, to charge any property or business of the Company and to issue debentures or give any other security for a debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any other person.

### **41. Negotiable instruments**

*[compare replaceable rule 198B]*

- 41.1 The directors may authorise any 2 directors to sign, draw, accept, endorse or otherwise execute a negotiable instrument.
- 41.2 The directors may determine that a negotiable instrument, including a class of negotiable instrument, may be signed, drawn, accepted, endorsed or otherwise executed in a different way.

## **Chief executive officer**

*[compare replaceable rule 201J]*

### **42. Power to appoint**

42.1 The directors may appoint any person, not being a director, to the position of chief executive officer for the period and on the terms (including as to remuneration) the directors see fit.

### **43. Not a member of the board**

43.1 The chief executive officer is not a member of the board of the Company but may attend meetings of the directors except where the directors otherwise request.

### **44. Powers**

44.1 The directors may, upon terms and conditions and with any restrictions they see fit, confer on a chief executive officer any of the powers that the directors can exercise.

44.2 Any powers so conferred may be concurrent with, or to the exclusion of, the powers of the directors.

### **45. Withdrawal of appointment or powers**

45.1 The directors may revoke or vary:

- (1) an appointment; or
- (2) any of the powers conferred on a chief executive officer.

### **46. Temporary appointments**

46.1 If a chief executive officer becomes incapable of acting in that capacity the directors may appoint any other person, not being a director, to act temporarily as chief executive officer.

## **Committees of directors**

### **47. Committees of directors**

*[compare replaceable rule 198D]*

47.1 The directors may delegate any of their powers to 1 or more committees of directors and any individual members appointed for the purpose.

47.2 A committee must exercise the powers delegated to it in accordance with any directions of the directors. The effect of the committee exercising a power in this way is the same as if the directors exercised it.

47.3 The meetings and proceedings of any committee consisting of 2 or more directors are governed by the provisions in this constitution regulating the meetings and proceedings of the directors.

## **Removal and resignation of directors**

### **48. Removal of directors**

*[compare section 203D]*

48.1 Subject to the Act the Company may by resolution remove a director from office.

### **49. Resignation of director**

*[replaceable rule 203A]*

49.1 A director may resign as a director of the Company by giving a written notice of resignation to the Company at its registered office.

### **50. Vacation of office of director**

*[compare section 206B]*

50.1 In addition to any other circumstances in which the office of a director becomes vacant under the Act, the office of a director becomes vacant if the director:

- (1) becomes bankrupt or suspends payment or compounds with his or her creditors;
- (2) becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;
- (3) is not present personally at 3 consecutive meetings of directors without special leave of absence from the directors and the directors declare his or her seat to be vacant;
- (4) ceases to be qualified as a director under rule 29;
- (5) becomes disqualified from being a director under the Act or a responsible entity under the ACNC Act or any order made under the Act or the ACNC Act;
- (6) is removed from office in accordance with rule 48; or
- (7) resigns from office in accordance with rule 49.

## **Directors' interests**

### **51. Prohibition on being present or voting**

*[compare section 195]*

51.1 Except where permitted by the Act a director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of directors:

- (1) must not be counted in a quorum;
- (2) must not vote on the matter; and
- (3) must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting.

51.2 If a director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of the directors is not prohibited by the Act from being present at the meeting and voting, the director may be present, be counted in the quorum and may be heard but may not vote on the matter.

## **52. Director to disclose interests**

*[compare section 191]*

52.1 A director who is in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in a contract or proposed contract with the Company must, as soon as practicable after the relevant facts have come to the director's knowledge, declare the nature of the interest at a meeting of the directors or by written notice to the secretary of the Company.

52.2 A director who holds any office or possesses any property by which, whether directly or indirectly, duties or interests might be created in conflict with his or her duties or interests as director must declare at a meeting of the directors of the Company or by written notice to the secretary of the Company the fact and the nature, character and extent of the conflict.

52.3 For the purposes of rules 52.1 and 52.2, a director's interest or any conflict must be disregarded if it arises from or relates solely to:

- (1) a guarantee to be given by the director (or by persons including the director or by a body corporate of which the director is a member or officer) in respect of a loan to the Company; or
- (2) the position of the director as a director of a related body corporate.

## **53. Effect of interest in contract**

*[compare replaceable rule 194]*

53.1 If a director has an interest in a contract or proposed contract with the Company (other than as a member), or a conflicting interest or duty in relation to any other matter being considered by the directors, and the director discloses the nature and extent of the interest or duty at a meeting of the directors or by written notice to the secretary of the Company:

- (1) the contract may be entered into; and
- (2) if the disclosure is made before the contract is entered into:
  - (a) the director may retain benefits under the contract even though the director has an interest in the contract;
  - (b) the Company cannot avoid the contract merely because of the existence of the interest; and
  - (c) the director is not disqualified from the office of director.

53.2 For the purposes of rule 53.1 **contract** includes an arrangement, dealing or other transaction.

## **54. Other interests**

54.1 Without limiting rule 52 or rule 53 a director may to the extent permitted by the Act:

- (1) hold any other office or place of profit under the Company (other than the office of auditor) in conjunction with the office of director; and
- (2) be interested in any operation, undertaking or business undertaken or assisted by the Company or in which the Company is or may be interested.

## **55. Extension of meaning of "Company"**

55.1 For the purposes of rules 52, 53 and 54 **Company** includes any subsidiary of the Company and any other company in which the Company or any subsidiary of the Company is or becomes a member or is otherwise interested.

## **56. Other directorships and shareholdings**

56.1 A director of the Company may be or become a director, officer, employee or member of any company promoted by the Company or in which the Company may be interested as a vendor, shareholder or otherwise and is not accountable for any reasonable benefits received as a director, officer, employee or member of the other company.

56.2 Subject to the Act:

- (1) the directors of the Company may exercise the voting power conferred by the shares or other interest held by the Company in another company in favour of a resolution appointing themselves or any of them as directors or other officers of the other company;
- (2) any director of the Company may vote at a meeting of directors of the Company in favour of a resolution that the Company exercises its voting power conferred by the shares or other interest held by the Company in the other company to appoint that director as a director or other officer of the other company;
- (3) any director of the Company may be appointed as representative of the Company and may vote at a general meeting of the other company in favour of a resolution appointing that director as a director or other officer of the other company; and
- (4) a director of the Company who is also a director of the other company may vote as a director of the other company in whatever manner he or she sees fit, including voting in favour of a resolution appointing the director to any other office in the other company and a resolution appointing any other directors of the Company as directors or other officers of the other company.



## Remuneration of directors

### 57. No directors' remuneration

*[compare section 150]*

57.1 Despite rule 6.2 no director may receive any remuneration for his or her services in his or her capacity as a director of the Company.

### 58. Directors' expenses

58.1 Despite rule 57 the Company may pay the directors' travelling and other expenses that they properly incur:

- (1) in attending directors' meetings or any meetings of committees of directors;
- (2) in attending any general meetings of the Company; and
- (3) in connection with the Company's business.

### 59. Financial benefit

*[compare Chapter 2E - sections 207 and following]*

59.1 To the extent, if any, required by the Act, a director must ensure that the requirements of the Act are complied with in relation to any financial benefit given by the Company to the director or to any other related party of the director.

## Secretary

### 60. Terms of office of secretary

*[compare replaceable rule 204F]*

60.1 A secretary of the Company holds office on the terms and conditions (including as to remuneration) that the directors determine.

## Indemnity and insurance

### 61. Indemnity

*[compare section 199A]*

61.1 To the extent permitted by the Act, the Company indemnifies:

- (1) every person who is or has been an officer of the Company; and
- (2) where the board of directors considers it appropriate to do so, any person who is or has been an officer of a related body corporate of the Company;

against any liability incurred by that person in his or her capacity as an officer of the Company or of the related body corporate (as the case may be).

61.2 In accordance with section 199A of the Act, the Company must not indemnify a person against:

- (1) any of the following liabilities incurred as an officer of the Company:
  - (a) a liability owed to the Company or a related body corporate;
  - (b) a liability for a pecuniary penalty order under section 1317G of the Act or a compensation order under section 1317H of the Act; or
  - (c) a liability that is owed to someone other than the Company or a related body corporate and did not arise out of conduct in good faith; or
- (2) legal costs incurred in defending an action for a liability incurred as an officer of the Company if the costs are incurred:
  - (a) in defending or resisting proceedings in which the person is found to have a liability for which they could not be indemnified under rule 61.2(1);
  - (b) in defending or resisting criminal proceedings in which the person is found guilty;
  - (c) in defending or resisting proceedings brought by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission or a liquidator for a court order if the grounds for making the order are found by the Court to have been established; or
  - (d) in connection with proceedings for relief to the person under the Act in which the Court denies the relief.

Rule 61.2(2)(c) does not apply to costs incurred in responding to actions taken by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission or a liquidator as part of an investigation before commencing proceedings for a court order.

(3) For the purposes of rule 61.2(2) the outcome of proceedings is the outcome of the proceedings and any appeal in relation to the proceedings.

61.3 An officer must:

- (1) give notice to the Company promptly on becoming aware of any Claim against the officer that may give rise to a right to be indemnified under rule 61.1;
- (2) take such action as the Company reasonably requests to avoid, dispute, resist, appeal against, compromise or defend any Claim or any adjudication of a Claim;
- (3) not make any admission of liability in respect of or settle any Claim without the prior written consent of the Company;
- (4) allow the Company or its insurers to assume the conduct, negotiation or defence of any Claim and, on request by the Company, render all reasonable assistance and co-operation to the Company or its insurers in the conduct of

any Claim, including giving the Company or its insurers any document, authority or direction that the Company or its insurers may reasonably require for the prosecution or advancement of any counterclaim or cross-claim;

- (5) on request by the Company or its insurers, do everything necessary or desirable which the Company reasonably requests to enable the Company or its insurers (so far as it is possible) to be subrogated to and enjoy the benefits of the officer's rights in relation to any counterclaim or cross-claim or any claims against any third party and render such assistance as may be reasonably requested by the Company or its insurers for that purpose; and
- (6) notify any Claim to an insurer or any other person who may be liable to indemnify the officer in respect of that Claim and promptly take all reasonable steps to enforce all the officer's rights against the insurer or other person.

61.4 In rule 61.3 **Claim** means:

- (1) any writ, summons, cross-claim, counterclaim, application or other originating legal or arbitral process against an officer as an officer of the Company;
- (2) any hearing, complaint, inquiry, investigation, proceeding or application commenced or originating against an officer as an officer of the Company; or
- (3) any written or oral demand or threat that might result in the officer reasonably believing that any such process, hearing, complaint, inquiry, investigation, proceeding or application referred to in rule 61.4(1) or 61.4(2) may be initiated.

## **62. Insurance**

*[compare section 241A]*

62.1 The Company may pay or agree to pay a premium in respect of a contract insuring a person who is or has been an officer of the Company or a related body corporate of the Company against any liability incurred by the person as an officer of the Company or a related body corporate except a liability (other than one for legal costs) arising out of:

- (1) conduct involving a wilful breach of duty in relation to the Company; or
- (2) a contravention of section 182 or 183 of the Act.

62.2 In the case of a director, any premium paid under this rule is not remuneration for the purpose of rule 57.

## **63. Director voting on contract of insurance**

*[compare section 191(2)(vi)]*

63.1 Despite anything in this constitution, a director is not precluded from voting in respect of any contract or proposed contract of insurance, merely because the contract insures or would insure the director against a liability incurred by the director as an officer of the Company or of a related body corporate.

## **64. Liability**

- 64.1 An officer of the Company is not liable for the act, neglect or default of any other officer or for joining in any act or for any other loss, expense or damage which arises in the execution of the duties of his or her office unless it arises through his or her own negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust.

## **65. Meaning of "officer"**

- 65.1 For the purposes of rules 61, 62, 63 and 64, **officer** means a director or secretary.

## **Inspection of records**

### **66. Rights of inspection**

*[compare replaceable rule 247D and sections 173, 198F, 247A and 251B]*

- 66.1 The directors of the Company, or the Company by a resolution passed at a general meeting, may authorise a member to inspect books of the Company.
- 66.2 A member other than a director does not have the right to inspect any document of the Company, other than the minute books for the meetings of its members and for resolution of members passed without meetings, except as provided by law or authorised by the directors or by the Company in general meeting.
- 66.3 Directors have the rights of inspection and access provided by section 198F of the Act.

### **67. Confidential information**

- 67.1 Except as provided by the Act, no member (not being a director) is entitled to require or receive any information concerning the business, trading or customers of the Company or any trade secret, secret process or other confidential information of or used by the Company.

## **Directors' meetings**

*[compare sections 248A to 248G]*

### **68. Circulating resolutions**

*[compare replaceable rule 248A]*

- 68.1 The directors may pass a resolution without a directors' meeting being held if all the directors entitled to vote on the resolution (except a director absent from Australia who has not left a facsimile number or electronic mail address at which he or she may be given notice) sign a document containing a statement that he or she is in favour of the resolution set out in the document.
- 68.2 Separate copies of a document may be used for signing by directors if the wording of the resolution and statement is identical in each copy.

- 68.3 The resolution is passed when the last director signs.
- 68.4 A facsimile or document sent by electronic mail message addressed to or received by the Company and purporting to be signed or sent by a director for the purpose of this rule 68 must be treated as a document in writing signed by that director.

## **69. Meetings of directors**

- 69.1 The directors must meet at least 6 times in each calendar year.
- 69.2 Subject to rule 69.1, the directors may meet together for the despatch of business and adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they see fit.

## **70. Calling directors' meetings**

*[compare replaceable rule 248C]*

- 70.1 A director may at any time, and a secretary must on the requisition of a director, call a meeting of the directors.

## **71. Notice of meeting**

*[compare replaceable rule 248C]*

- 71.1 Reasonable notice (being no less than 14 days) of every directors' meeting must be given to each director except that it is not necessary to give notice of a meeting of directors to any director who:
- (1) has been given special leave of absence; or
  - (2) is absent from Australia and has not left a facsimile number or electronic mail address at which he or she may be given notice.
- 71.2 Any notice of a meeting of directors may be given in writing or orally, and whether by facsimile, telephone, electronic mail or any other means of communication.

## **72. Technology meeting of directors**

*[compare section 248D]*

- 72.1 A directors' meeting may be held using telephone or, if consented to by all directors, other technology. The consent may be a standing one. A director may only withdraw the consent within a reasonable period before the meeting.
- 72.2 If a directors' meeting is held using any technology and all the directors take part in the meeting, they must be treated as having consented to the use of the technology for that meeting.
- 72.3 The following provisions apply to a technology meeting:
- (1) each of the directors taking part in the meeting must be able to hear and be heard by each of the other directors taking part in the meeting; and
  - (2) at the commencement of the meeting each director must announce his or her presence to all the other directors taking part in the meeting.

- 72.4 If the secretary is not present at a technology meeting 1 of the directors present must take minutes of the meeting.
- 72.5 A director may not leave a technology meeting by disconnecting his or her link to the meeting unless that director has previously notified the chair of the meeting.
- 72.6 A director is conclusively presumed to have been present and to have formed part of a quorum at all times during a technology meeting unless that director has previously obtained the express consent of the chair to leave the meeting.

### **73. Chairing directors' meetings**

*[compare replaceable rule 248E]*

- 73.1 The directors may elect a director to chair their meetings. The directors may determine the period for which the director is to be chair. However, the first chair of the Company will be the president of the Incorporated Association at the time of registration of the Company with ASIC who will hold the position until the conclusion of the first annual general meeting of the Company.
- 73.2 The chair is to be elected at the first directors' meeting held after the annual general meeting each year.
- 73.3 The directors must elect a director present to chair a meeting, or part of it, if:
- (1) a director has not already been elected to chair the meeting; or
  - (2) a previously elected chair is not present within 10 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unwilling to act for the meeting or part of the meeting.
- 73.4 The directors may appoint a deputy chair who, in the absence of the chair at a meeting of directors, may exercise all powers and authorities of the chair.

### **74. Quorum**

*[compare replaceable rule 248F]*

- 74.1 The quorum for a directors' meeting is 5 directors entitled to vote or a greater number determined by the directors. The quorum must be present at all times during the meeting.
- 74.2 If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time for the meeting set out in the notice of meeting:
- (1) where the meeting was called by a director, the meeting is dissolved; or
  - (2) in any other case, the meeting is adjourned to the date, time and place the directors specify.
- 74.3 If no quorum is present at the resumed meeting within 30 minutes after the time for the meeting, the meeting is dissolved.

## **75. Passing of directors' resolutions**

*[compare replaceable rule 248G]*

- 75.1 A resolution of the directors must be passed by a majority of the votes cast by directors entitled to vote on the resolution.
- 75.2 The chair does not have a casting vote in addition to any vote he or she has as a director.

## **Meetings of members**

### **76. Circulating resolutions**

*[compare section 249A]*

- 76.1 This rule 76 applies to resolutions which the Act, or this constitution, requires or permits to be passed at a general meeting, except a resolution under section 329 of the Act to remove an auditor.
- 76.2 The Company may pass a resolution without a general meeting being held if all the members entitled to vote on the resolution sign a document containing a statement that they are in favour of the resolution set out in the document.
- 76.3 Separate copies of a document may be used for signing by members if the wording of the resolution and statement is identical in each copy.
- 76.4 The resolution is passed when the last member signs.
- 76.5 If the Company receives by facsimile transmission or electronic mail message a copy of a document referred to in this rule 76 it is entitled to assume that the copy is a true copy.

### **77. Calling of general meeting**

*[compare sections 250N, replaceable rule 249C and section 249D]*

- 77.1 A majority of directors may call a general meeting whenever they see fit.
- 77.2 Except as permitted by law, a general meeting, to be called the **annual general meeting**, must be held at least once in every calendar year.
- 77.3 Except as provided in the Act, no member or members may call a general meeting.

### **78. Amount of notice of meeting**

*[compare section 249H]*

- 78.1 Subject to the provisions of the Act as to short notice, at least 28 days' notice of a general meeting must be given in writing to those persons who are entitled to receive notices from the Company.

## **79. Persons entitled to notice of general meeting**

*[compare sections 249J(1) and 249K, and replaceable rule 249J(2)]*

79.1 Written notice of a meeting of the Company's members must be given individually to:

- (1) each member;
- (2) each director; and
- (3) the Company's auditor.

79.2 No other person is entitled to receive notice of general meetings.

## **80. How notice is given**

*[compare sections 249J(3) and 240J(3A)]*

80.1 The Company may give the notice of meeting to a member:

- (1) personally;
- (2) by sending it by post to the address for the member in the register of members or the alternative address (if any) nominated by the member;
- (3) by sending it to the facsimile number or electronic address (if any) nominated by the member;
- (4) by sending it by other electronic means (if any) nominated by the member; or
- (5) by notifying the member in accordance with rule 80.2.

80.2 If the member nominates:

- (1) an electronic means (**nominated notification means**) by which the member may be notified that notices of meeting are available; and
- (2) an electronic means (**nominated access means**) the member may use to access notices of meeting;

the Company may give the member notice of the meeting by notifying the member (using the nominated notification means):

- (3) that the notice of meeting is available; and
- (4) how the member may use the nominated access means to access the notice of meeting.

## **81. When notice is given**

*[compare replaceable rules 249J(4) and 249J(5)]*

81.1 A notice of meeting sent by post is taken to be given 3 days after it is posted.

81.2 Except as provided by rule 81.3, a notice of meeting given to a member under rule 80.1(3) is taken to be given on the business day after it is sent.



- 81.3 A notice of meeting given to a member under rule 80.1(3) is not effective if:
- (1) in the case of service by facsimile, the Company's facsimile machine issues a transmission report that the transmission was unsuccessful;
  - (2) in the case of service by electronic mail, the Company's computer reports that delivery has failed; or
  - (3) in either case the addressee notifies the Company immediately that the notice was not fully received in a legible form.
- 81.4 A notice of meeting given to a member under rule 80.1(5) is taken to be given on the business day after the day on which the member is notified that the notice of meeting is available.
- 81.5 A certificate signed by a manager, secretary or other officer of the Company that the notice was posted or given in accordance with this rule 81 is conclusive evidence of the matter.

## **82. Period of notice**

- 82.1 Subject to the Act and this constitution where a specified number of days' notice or notice extending over any period is required to be given, the day of service is excluded, and the day upon which the notice expires is included.

## **83. Contents of notice**

*[compare replaceable rule 249L]*

- 83.1 A notice of a general meeting must:
- (1) set out the place, date and time for the meeting (and, if the meeting is to be held in 2 or more places, the technology that will be used);
  - (2) state the general nature of the meeting's business;
  - (3) if a special resolution is to be proposed at the meeting, set out an intention to propose the special resolution and state the resolution;
  - (4) be worded and presented in a clear, concise and effective manner; and
  - (5) contain a statement setting out the following information:
    - (a) that the member has a right to appoint a proxy; and
    - (b) that the proxy need not be a member of the Company.

## **84. Notice of adjourned meeting**

*[replaceable rule 249M]*

- 84.1 When a meeting is adjourned, new notice of the resumed meeting must be given if the meeting is adjourned for 1 month or more.

## **85. Accidental omission to give notice**

*[compare section 1322(3)]*

85.1 The accidental omission to give notice of any general meeting to or the non-receipt of the notice by any person entitled to receive notice of a general meeting under this constitution does not invalidate the proceedings at or any resolution passed at the meeting.

## **86. Postponement of general meeting**

86.1 The directors may postpone the holding of any general meeting whenever they see fit (other than a meeting requisitioned by members as provided by the Act) for not more than 42 days after the date for which it was originally called.

86.2 Whenever any meeting is postponed (as distinct from being adjourned under rule 88.3) the same period of notice of the meeting must be given to persons entitled to receive notice of a meeting as if a new meeting were being called for the date to which the original meeting is postponed.

## **87. Technology**

*[section 249S]*

87.1 The Company may hold a meeting of its members at 2 or more venues using any technology that gives the members as a whole a reasonable opportunity to participate.

## **88. Quorum**

*[compare replaceable rule 249T]*

88.1 The quorum for a meeting of the Company's members is 25 persons entitled to vote and the quorum must be present at all times during the meeting.

88.2 In determining whether a quorum is present, individuals attending as proxies, attorneys or body corporate representatives are counted. If an individual is attending both as a member and as a proxy, attorney or body corporate representative, the individual is counted only once.

88.3 If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time for the meeting set out in the notice of meeting:

(1) where the meeting was called by the members or upon the requisition of members, the meeting is dissolved; or

(2) in any other case, the meeting is adjourned to the date, time and place the directors specify.

88.4 If no quorum is present at the resumed meeting within 30 minutes after the time for the meeting, the meeting is dissolved.

## **89. Chair at general meetings**

*[compare replaceable rule 249U]*

89.1 If the directors have appointed one of their number as chair of their meeting, the person appointed presides as chair at every meeting of the Company's members.

89.2 Where a meeting of the Company's members is held and:

- (1) a chair has not been presented as referred to in rule 89.1; or
- (2) the chair is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unwilling to act;

the directors present may appoint one of their number to be chair of the meeting and, in default of their doing so, the members present must appoint another director, or if no director is present or willing to act, then the members present may appoint any one of their number to be chair of the meeting.

89.3 The chair must adjourn a meeting of the Company's members if the members present with a majority of votes at the meeting agree or direct that the chair must do so.

## **90. Business at adjourned meetings**

*[replaceable rule 249W(2)]*

90.1 Only unfinished business is to be transacted at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.

## **Proxies and body corporate representatives**

### **91. Who can appoint a proxy**

*[compare mandatory rule 249X]*

91.1 A member who is entitled to attend and cast a vote at a meeting of the Company's members may appoint an individual or a body corporate as the member's proxy to attend and vote for the member at the meeting. The proxy need not be a member.

### **92. Rights of proxies**

*[compare section 249Y]*

92.1 A proxy appointed to attend and vote for a member has the same rights as the member:

- (1) to speak at the meeting;
- (2) to vote (but only to the extent allowed by the appointment); and
- (3) to join in a demand for a poll.

92.2 If a proxy is only for a single meeting it may be used at any postponement or adjournment of that meeting, unless the proxy states otherwise.

- 92.3 A proxy's authority to speak and vote for a member at a meeting is suspended while the member is present at the meeting.
- 92.4 A proxy may be revoked at any time by notice in writing to the Company.

### **93. When proxy form must be sent to all members**

*[section 249Z]*

- 93.1 If the Company sends a member a proxy appointment form for a meeting or a list of persons willing to act as proxies at a meeting:
- (1) if the member requested the form or list – the Company must send the form or list to all members who ask for it and who are entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote at the meeting; or
  - (2) otherwise – the Company must send the form or list to all its members entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote at the meeting.

### **94. Appointing a proxy**

*[compare section 250A and Corporations Regulations 2001 reg 2G.2.01]*

- 94.1 An appointment of a proxy is valid if it is signed or otherwise electronically authenticated (as referred to in regulation 2G.2.01 of the *Corporations Regulations 2001*, and in rules 94.2 and 94.3) by the member making the appointment and contains the following information:

- (1) the member's name and address;
- (2) the Company's name;
- (3) the proxy's name or the name of the office held by the proxy; and
- (4) the meetings at which the appointment may be used.

An appointment may be a standing one.

- 94.2 An electronically authenticated appointment of a proxy must in addition to rule 98.1:

- (1) include a method of identifying the member; and
- (2) include an indication of the member's approval of the information communicated.

- 94.3 If the electronically authenticated appointment of a proxy is done through either email or internet-based voting:

- (1) the member must be identified by personal details such as the member's name, personal address and date of birth; and
- (2) the member's approval must be communicated by a form of security protection (for example, the entering of a confidential identification number such as a shareholder registration number or holder identification number).

- 94.4 An undated appointment is taken to have been dated on the day it is given to the Company.
- 94.5 An appointment may specify the way the proxy is to vote on a particular resolution. If it does:
- (1) the proxy need not vote on a show of hands, but if the proxy does so, the proxy must vote that way;
  - (2) if the proxy has 2 or more appointments that specify different ways to vote on the resolution – the proxy must not vote on a show of hands;
  - (3) if the proxy is the chair – the proxy must vote on a poll, and must vote that way; and
  - (4) if the proxy is not the chair – the proxy need not vote on a poll, but if the proxy does so, the proxy must vote that way.

If a proxy is also a member, this rule 94.5 does not affect the way that the person can cast any votes the person holds as a member.

- 94.6 An appointment does not have to be witnessed.
- 94.7 A later appointment revokes an earlier one if both appointments could not be validly exercised at the meeting.

## **95. Form of proxy sent out by Company**

- 95.1 A form of proxy sent out by the Company may be in a form determined by the directors but must:
- (1) enable the member to specify the manner in which the proxy must vote in respect of a particular resolution; and
  - (2) leave a blank for the member to fill in the name of the person primarily appointed as proxy.
- 95.2 The form may provide that if the member leaves it blank as to the person primarily appointed as proxy or if the person or persons named as proxy fails or fail to attend, the chair of the meeting is appointed proxy.
- 95.3 Despite rule 95.1 an instrument appointing a proxy may be in the following form or in a form that is as similar to the following form as the circumstances allow:

### **Queensland Council of Social Service Ltd**

ACN 169 502 032

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, being a member/members of the abovenamed company, appoint \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ or, in his or her absence, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ as my/our proxy to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the \*annual general/\*general meeting of the company to be held on \_\_\_\_\_ and at any adjournment of that meeting.

† This form is to be used \*in favour of/\*against the resolution.

Signed on .

\* Strike out whichever is not desired.

† To be inserted if desired.

## **96. Receipt of proxy documents**

*[compare section 250B]*

96.1 For an appointment of a proxy for a meeting of the Company's members to be effective, the following documents must be received by the Company at least 48 hours before the meeting:

- (1) the proxy's appointment; and
- (2) if the appointment is signed or otherwise authenticated by the appointor's attorney – the authority under which the appointment was signed or authenticated or a certified copy of the authority.

96.2 If a meeting of the Company's members has been adjourned, an appointment and any authority received by the Company at least 48 hours before the resumption of the meeting are effective for the resumed part of the meeting.

96.3 The Company receives an appointment or authority:

- (1) when it is received at any of the following:
  - (a) the Company's registered office;
  - (b) a facsimile number at the Company's registered office; or
  - (c) a place, facsimile number or electronic mail address specified for the purpose in the notice of meeting; or
- (2) if the notice of meeting specifies other electronic means by which a member may give the document – when the document given by those means is received by the Company and complies with rules 94.2 and 94.3.

96.4 An appointment of a proxy is ineffective if:

- (1) the Company receives either or both the appointment or authority at a fax number or electronic address; and
- (2) a requirement (if any) in the notice of meeting that:
  - (a) the transmission be verified in a way specified in the notice; or
  - (b) the proxy produce the appointment and authority (if any) at the meeting;is not complied with.

## **97. Validity of proxy vote**

*[section 250C(1) and compare replaceable rule 250C(2)]*

97.1 A proxy who is not entitled to vote on a resolution as a member may vote as a proxy for another member who can vote if the appointment specifies the way the proxy is to vote on the resolution and the proxy votes that way.

97.2 A vote cast by a proxy is valid although, before the proxy votes:

- (1) the appointing member dies;
- (2) the member is mentally incapacitated;
- (3) the member revokes the proxy's appointment; or
- (4) the member revokes the authority under which the proxy was appointed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party;

unless the Company receives written notice of that event before the start or resumption of the meeting at which the proxy votes.

## **98. Representative of an organisational or associate member**

*[section 250D]*

98.1 An:

- (1) organisational or associate member which is a corporate entity may; or
- (2) an organisational or associate member which is an unincorporated association must in accordance with rule 17.2:

appoint an individual as a representative to exercise all or any of the powers the organisational or associate member may exercise:

- (a) at meetings of the Company's members;
- (b) at meetings of creditors or debenture holders;
- (c) relating to resolutions to be passed without meetings; or
- (d) in the capacity of a member's proxy appointed under rule 91.

The appointment may be a standing one.

98.2 The appointment may set out restrictions on the representative's powers. If the appointment is to be by reference to a position held, the appointment must identify the position.

98.3 An organisational or associate member which is a corporate member may appoint more than 1 representative but only 1 representative may exercise the organisational or associate member's powers at any one time.

98.4 Unless otherwise specified in the appointment, the representative may exercise, on the organisational or associate member's behalf, all of the powers that the

organisational or associate member could exercise at a meeting or in voting on a resolution.

## **99. Attorney of member**

99.1 An attorney for a member may do whatever the member could do personally as a member, but if the attorney is to vote at a meeting of members or a class of members the instrument conferring the power of attorney or a certified copy of it must be produced to the Company at least 48 hours before the meeting, in the same way as the appointment of a proxy.

## **Voting at meetings of members**

### **100. How vote may be exercised**

100.1 Subject to rules 101 and 102 at any general meeting of members, each individual member and each organisational member present has 1 vote on a show of hands and on a poll.

100.2 The vote may be exercised in person or by proxy, organisational member's representative or attorney.

### **101. Voting disqualification**

101.1 A member is not entitled to vote at a general meeting if:

- (1) the annual membership fee of the member; or
- (2) in the case of a person who is a nominated representative, the annual membership fee of the corporate member for which he or she is the nominated representative;

is more than 1 month in arrears at the date of the meeting or the postponed or adjourned meeting.

### **102. Objections to right to vote**

*[compare replaceable rule 250G]*

102.1 A challenge to a right to vote at a meeting of members:

- (1) may only be made at the meeting; and
- (2) must be determined by the chair, whose decision is final.

102.2 A vote not disallowed following the challenge is valid for all purposes.



### **103. How voting is carried out**

*[compare replaceable rule 250J and section 251A]*

- 103.1 A resolution put to the vote at a meeting of the Company's members must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is demanded.
- 103.2 On a show of hands, a declaration by the chair is conclusive evidence of the result. Neither the chair nor the minutes need to state the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour or against.
- 103.3 Unless otherwise required by this constitution or the Act, all resolutions of the Company are ordinary resolutions which are resolutions passed by more than 50% of the votes cast by members entitled to vote on the resolutions.

### **104. Matters on which a poll may be demanded**

*[compare section 250K]*

- 104.1 A poll may be demanded on any resolution.
- 104.2 A demand for a poll may be withdrawn.

### **105. When a poll is effectively demanded**

*[compare section 250L]*

- 105.1 At a meeting of the Company's members, a poll may be demanded by:
- (1) at least 3 members entitled to vote on the resolution; or
  - (2) the chair.
- 105.2 The poll may be demanded:
- (1) before a vote is taken;
  - (2) before the voting results on a show of hands are declared; or
  - (3) immediately after the voting results on a show of hands are declared.

### **106. When and how polls must be taken**

*[compare replaceable rule 250M]*

- 106.1 A poll demanded on a matter other than the election of a chair or the question of an adjournment must be taken when and in the manner the chair directs.
- 106.2 A poll on the election of a chair or on the question of an adjournment must be taken immediately.
- 106.3 The demand for a poll does not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which a poll has been demanded.
- 106.4 The result of the poll is the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

## **107. Chair's casting vote**

*[compare replaceable rule 250E(3)]*

107.1 In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chair of the meeting does not have a casting vote in addition to any vote he or she may have in his or her capacity as a member or proxy.

## **Annual general meeting**

*[compare section 250N]*

## **108. Business of an annual general meeting**

*[compare sections 250R, 250S and 250T]*

108.1 The business of an annual general meeting may include any of the following, even if not referred to in the notice of meeting:

- (1) the consideration of the annual financial report, directors' report and auditor's report;
- (2) the election of directors;
- (3) the appointment of the auditor; and
- (4) the fixing of the auditor's remuneration.

All other business transacted at an annual general meeting and all business transacted at any other general meeting is special business.

108.2 The business of the annual general meeting also includes any other business which under this constitution or the Act ought to be transacted at an annual general meeting.

108.3 The chair of the annual general meeting must allow a reasonable opportunity for the members as a whole at the meeting to ask questions about or make comments on the management of the Company.

108.4 If the Company's auditor or the auditor's representative is at the meeting, the chair of an annual general meeting must allow a reasonable opportunity for the members as a whole at the meeting to ask the auditor or that representative questions relevant to the conduct of the audit and the preparation and content of the auditor's report.

## **109. Resolutions proposed by members**

*[compare sections 249N and 249O]*

109.1 A member may not at any meeting move any resolution relating to special business unless:

- (1) members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast on the resolution have given the Company notice of the resolution or the requirements of section 249N of the Act have otherwise been satisfied, and 2 months' notice has elapsed since the notice was given; or

- (2) the resolution has previously been approved by the directors.

## Minutes

### 110. Minutes to be kept

*[compare section 251A]*

110.1 The directors must keep minute books in which they record within 1 month:

- (1) proceedings and resolutions of meetings of the Company's members;
- (2) proceedings and resolutions of directors' meetings (including meetings of a committee of directors);
- (3) resolutions passed by members without a meeting; and
- (4) resolutions passed by directors without a meeting.

110.2 The directors must ensure that minutes of a meeting are signed within a reasonable time after the meeting by 1 of the following:

- (1) the chair of the meeting; or
- (2) the chair of the next meeting.

110.3 The directors must ensure that minutes of the passing of a resolution without a meeting are signed by a director within a reasonable time after the resolution is passed.

110.4 Without limiting rule 110.1 the directors must record in the minute books:

- (1) all appointments of officers;
- (2) the names of the directors present at all meetings of directors and the Company;
- (3) in the case of a technology meeting, the nature of the technology; and
- (4) all other matters required by the Act to be recorded in the minute books, including each notice and standing notice given by a director of a material personal interest.

## Accounts, audit and records

### 111. Accounts

*[compare sections 285-297, 314-317]*

111.1 The directors must cause proper accounting and other records to be kept in accordance with the Act and ACNC Act.

111.2 The directors must distribute copies of every profit and loss account, balance sheet and statement of cash flows (including every document required by law to be attached to them) as required by the Act and ACNC Act.

## **112. Audit**

*[compare sections 301, 327-331]*

112.1 If required by the Act or ACNC Act, a registered company auditor must be appointed.

112.2 The remuneration of the auditor must be fixed and the auditor's duties regulated in accordance with the Act and ACNC Act.

## **Execution of documents**

### **113. Common seal**

113.1 The Company may, but need not, have a common seal.

### **114. Use of common seal**

*[compare sections 127(2) and 129(6)]*

114.1 If the Company has a common seal the directors must provide for its safe custody.

114.2 The common seal may not be fixed to any document except by the authority of a resolution of the directors or of a committee of the directors duly authorised by the directors.

114.3 The Company executes a document with its common seal if the fixing of the seal is witnessed by:

- (1) 2 directors of the Company; or
- (2) a director and a company secretary of the Company.

### **115. Execution of documents without common seal**

*[compare sections 127(1) and 129(5)]*

115.1 The Company may execute a document without using a common seal if the document is signed by:

- (1) 2 directors of the Company; or
- (2) a director and a company secretary of the Company.

### **116. Execution of document as a deed**

*[compare section 127(3)]*

116.1 The Company may execute a document as a deed if the document is expressed to be executed as a deed and is executed in accordance with rule 114 or rule 115.

## **117. Execution – general**

*[compare sections 129(5), 129(6) and 127(4)]*

- 117.1 The same person may not sign in the dual capacities of director and secretary.
- 117.2 A director may sign any document as director, with or without the common seal, although the document relates to a contract, arrangement, dealing or other transaction in which he or she is interested and his or her signature complies with the requirements of this constitution as to execution despite his or her interest.
- 117.3 Rules 114 and 115 do not limit the ways in which the directors may authorise documents (including deeds) to be executed on behalf of the Company.

## **Inadvertent omissions**

### **118. Formalities omitted**

*[compare section 1322]*

- 118.1 If some formality required by this constitution is inadvertently omitted or is not carried out the omission does not invalidate anything, including any resolution, which but for the omission would have been valid unless it is proved to the satisfaction of the directors that the omission has directly prejudiced any member financially. The decision of the directors is final and binding on all members.

## **Alterations**

### **119. Alterations**

- 119.1 If the Company is approved as a charity under the ACNC Act by the ACNC, the ACNC must be notified in writing of any alterations to this constitution.

## **Winding up**

### **120. Winding up (if Company is endorsed as a tax concession charity only)**

- 120.1 This rule 120 applies only if, at the time of winding up or dissolution, the Company is endorsed as a tax concession charity only by the Commissioner of Taxation.
- 120.2 If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Company any property remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, that property must not be paid or distributed among the members of the Company but must be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions determined by the members of the Company at or before the time of dissolution which:

- (1) has similar objects to the Company; and

- (2) is endorsed by the Commissioner of Taxation as a tax concession charity for the purposes of the ITAA.

## **121. Winding up (if Company is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient)**

121.1 This rule 121 applies only if, at the time of winding up or dissolution, the Company is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient by the Commissioner of Taxation.

121.2 If:

- (1) the Company ceases to be endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under subdivision 30-BA of the ITAA; or
- (2) the Company is wound up and at that time the Company is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under subdivision 30-BA of the ITAA;

any surplus assets of any gift fund maintained by the Company must be transferred to a fund, authority or institution:

- (3) which is charitable at law; and
- (4) gifts to which can be deducted under Division 30 of the ITAA.

121.3 Subject to rule 121.2, if at the time of winding up or dissolution of the Company any property remains other than in a gift fund maintained by the Company after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, that property must not be paid or distributed to any of the members of the Company but must be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions determined by the members of the Company at or before the time of dissolution which:

- (1) has similar objects to the Company; and
- (2) is endorsed by the Commissioner of Taxation as a deductible gift recipient for the purposes of the ITAA.

122. If the members do not make the necessary determination under rule 120.2 or rule 121.3 (as the case may be), the Company may apply to the Supreme Court to determine the institution or institutions.

123. For the purposes of rules 120 and 121, ITAA means the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth).

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