

# Constitution



**United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
NSW Division**

**United Nations Association of Australia (N.S.W. Division) Inc**  
An association incorporated in New South Wales on 1 October 1987

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## Part 1 Preliminary

### 1. Definitions

- (1) In this constitution:
- (a) **ordinary committee member** means a member of the committee who is not an office-bearer of the association.
  - (b) secretary means:
    - (i) the person holding office under this constitution as secretary of the association, or
    - (ii) if no person holds that office - the public officer of the association.
  - (c) **special general meeting** means a general meeting of the association other than an annual general meeting.
  - (d) **the Act** means the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (NSW).
  - (e) **the Regulation** means the *Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016* (NSW).
- (2) In this constitution:
- (a) a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty, and
  - (b) a reference to the exercise of a function includes, if the function is a duty, a reference to the performance of the duty.
- (3) The provisions of the *Interpretation Act 1987* (NSW) apply to and in respect of this constitution in the same manner as those provisions would so apply if this constitution were an instrument made under the Act.

### 2. Objects

The objects of the association are:

- (a) to endeavour to support the United Nations and the World Federation of United Nations Associations in the attainment of the United Nations' purposes and principles, as set out in the United Nations Charter and other official pronouncements of the United Nations, including:
  - (i) the maintenance of international peace and security,
  - (ii) the development of positive relations among nations, and
  - (iii) the achievement of international co-operation in solving humanitarian, environmental, economic, cultural and social problems,
- (b) to promote among the people of New South Wales and Australia knowledge and appreciation of the United Nations and the specialised and other inter-governmental and non-governmental agencies related to the United Nations and foster support for their objectives,
- (c) to encourage among the people of New South Wales and Australia an understanding of the rights and duties of Australia as a member of the United Nations, with a view to ensuring that the state and federal governments are aware of and observe these duties,
- (d) to support and co-operate with other organisations having similar objectives, in particular, the United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated, and
- (e) to do all such additional things as may be deemed necessary or desirable in furtherance of the above objects consistent with the principles and practices of the United Nations and the United Nations Association of Australia Incorporated.

## Part 2 Membership

### 3. Membership generally

- (1) A person is eligible to be a member of the association if the person has applied and been approved for membership of the association in accordance with clause 4.
- (2) The categories of membership comprise:
  - (a) standard,
  - (b) corporate, and
  - (c) life.
- (3) The members of the association may, following a nomination by the committee and passing a resolution in a general meeting, determine that a person be awarded the status of "life member". Only natural persons who have made a substantial and positive contribution to the association over an extended period may be eligible for this status.

### 4. Application for membership

- (1) An application by a person for membership of the association must be:
  - (a) made in writing (including by email or other electronic means, if the committee so determines) in the form determined by the committee,
  - (b) accompanied by a payment of the applicable sum payable on that member's admission to membership, and
  - (c) lodged (including by electronic means, if the committee so determines) with the secretary of the association.
- (2) As soon as practicable after receiving an application for membership, the secretary must refer the application to the committee, which is to determine whether to approve or to reject the application.
- (3) As soon as practicable after the committee makes that determination, the secretary must:
  - (a) if the committee rejected the application, notify the applicant in writing (including by email or other electronic means, if the committee so determines) and refund the membership fee that was paid (if any), and
  - (b) if the committee approved the application, enter or cause to be entered the applicant's name in the register of members and, on the name being so entered, the applicant becomes a member of the association.

### 5. Cessation of membership

A person ceases to be a member of the association if the person:

- (a) being a natural person, dies, or
- (b) being a body corporate, is wound up, or
- (c) resigns membership, or
- (d) is expelled from the association, or
- (e) fails to pay the annual membership fee under clause 9 within 3 months after the fee is due.

### 6. Membership entitlements not transferable

A right, privilege or obligation which a person has by reason of being a member of the association:

- (a) is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person, and
- (b) terminates on cessation of the person's membership.

## 7. Resignation of membership

- (1) A member of the association may resign from membership of the association by first giving to the secretary written notice of at least 1 month (or any other period that the committee may determine) of the member's intention to resign and, on the expiration of the period of notice, the member ceases to be a member.
- (2) If a member of the association ceases to be a member under subclause (1), and in every other case where a member ceases to hold membership, the secretary must make an appropriate entry in the register of members recording the date on which the member ceased to be a member.

## 8. Register of members

- (1) The secretary must establish and maintain a register of members of the association (whether in written or electronic form) specifying the name and postal, residential or email address of each person who is a member of the association together with the date on which the person became a member.
- (2) The register of members must be kept in New South Wales:
  - (a) at the main premises of the association, or
  - (b) if the association has no premises, at the association's official address.
- (3) The register of members must be open for inspection, free of charge, by any member of the association between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM on any working day (as defined in the Act).
- (4) A member of the association may obtain a copy of any part of the register on payment of a fee of not more than \$1 for each page copied.
- (5) If a member requests that any information contained on the register about the member (other than the member's name) not be available for inspection, that information must not be made available for inspection.
- (6) A member must not use information about a person obtained from the register to contact or send material to the person, other than for:
  - (a) the purposes of sending the person a newsletter, a notice in respect of a meeting or other event relating to the association or other material relating to the association, or
  - (b) any other purpose necessary to comply with a requirement of the Act or the Regulation.
- (7) If the register of members is kept in electronic form:
  - (a) it must be convertible into hard copy, and
  - (b) the requirements in subclauses (2) and (3) apply as if a reference to the register of members is a reference to a current hard copy of the register of members.

## 9. Membership fees

- (1) A member of the association must:
  - (a) on application for admission to membership, and
  - (b) on renewal of their membership following the expiration of their membership period,
 pay to the association a membership fee of the amount determined by the committee for their respective membership category and status (for example, student, concession, or registered non-profit).
- (2) Life members of the association are not required to pay any membership fee, and their membership will be automatically and indefinitely renewed.
- (3) If a member of the association must reapply for membership in accordance with clause 4 if they have not paid a renewal fee within four weeks of the date that their membership period has expired.

## 10. Members' liabilities

The liability of a member of the association to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the association is

limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership of the association as required by clause 9.

## 11. Public statements

No member of the association may purport to represent the association to external parties, including but not limited to statements to media, other organisations or government entities or on social media, without the prior written consent of the president or the committee.

## 12. Resolution of disputes

- (1) A dispute between a member and another member (in their capacity as members) of the association, or a dispute between a member or members and the association, are to be referred to a Community Justice Centre for mediation under the *Community Justice Centres Act 1983* (NSW).
- (2) If a dispute is not resolved by mediation within 3 months of the referral to a Community Justice Centre, the dispute is to be referred to arbitration.
- (3) The *Commercial Arbitration Act 2010* (NSW) applies to a dispute referred to arbitration.

## 13. Disciplining of members

- (1) A complaint may be made to the committee by any person that a member of the association:
  - (a) has refused or neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of this constitution, or
  - (b) has wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the association.
- (2) The committee may refuse to deal with a complaint if it considers the complaint to be trivial or vexatious in nature.
- (3) If the committee decides to deal with the complaint, the committee:
  - (a) must cause notice of the complaint to be served on the member concerned, and
  - (b) must give the member at least 14 days from the time the notice is served within which to make submissions to the committee in connection with the complaint, and
  - (c) must take into consideration any submissions made by the member in connection with the complaint.
- (4) The committee may, by resolution, expel the member from the association or suspend the member from membership of the association if, after considering the complaint and any submissions made in connection with the complaint, it is satisfied that the facts alleged in the complaint have been proved and the expulsion or suspension is warranted in the circumstances.
- (5) If the committee expels or suspends a member, the secretary must, within 7 days after the action is taken, cause written notice to be given to the member of the action taken, of the reasons given by the committee for having taken that action and of the member's right of appeal under clause 14.
- (6) The expulsion or suspension does not take effect:
  - (a) until the expiration of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal against the resolution concerned, or
  - (b) if within that period the member exercises the right of appeal, unless and until the association confirms the resolution under clause 14,

whichever is the later.

## 14. Right of appeal of disciplined member

- (1) A member may appeal to the association in a general meeting against a resolution of the committee under clause 13, within 7 days after notice of the resolution is served on the member, by lodging with the secretary a notice to that effect.
- (2) The notice may, but need not, be accompanied by a statement of the grounds on which the member intends to rely for the purposes of the appeal.

- (3) On receipt of a notice from a member under subclause (1), the secretary must notify the committee, which is to convene a general meeting of the association to be held within 28 days after the date on which the secretary received the notice.
- (4) At a general meeting of the association convened under subclause (3):
  - (a) no business other than the question of the appeal is to be transacted, and
  - (b) the committee and the member must be given the opportunity to state their respective cases orally or in writing, or both, and
  - (c) the members present are to vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- (5) The appeal is to be determined by a simple majority of votes cast by members of the association.

## Part 3 The committee

### 15. Powers of the committee

Subject to the Act, the Regulation, this constitution and any resolution passed by the association in general meeting, the committee:

- (a) is to control and manage the affairs of the association, and
- (b) may exercise all the functions that may be exercised by the association, other than those functions that are required by this constitution to be exercised by a general meeting of members of the association, and
- (c) has power to perform all the acts and do all things that appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the association.

### 16. Composition and membership of committee

- (1) Subject to the further requirements in section 28 of the Act concerning eligibility for membership and composition of the committee, the committee is to consist of:
  - (a) the office-bearers of the association, and
  - (b) up to 8 ordinary committee members, or the number as varied from time by a resolution passed by at least 75% of the members of the committee,

each of whom is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the association under clause 17.

- (2) The office-bearers of the association are:
  - (a) the president,
  - (b) two vice-presidents,
  - (c) the treasurer, and
  - (d) the secretary.
- (3) A committee member may hold up to 2 offices (other than both the offices of president and vice-president).
- (4) There is no maximum number of consecutive terms for which a committee member may hold office.
- (5) Each member of the committee is, subject to this constitution, to hold office until immediately before the election of committee members at the annual general meeting:
  - (a) that is next following the date of the member's election, if the member was elected as a new member of the committee, or
  - (b) that is approximately two years following the date of the member's election, if the member was re-elected to the committee,

and is eligible for re-election.

## 17. Election of committee members

- (1) Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the association or as ordinary committee members:
  - (a) must be made in writing,
  - (b) must be supported in writing by 2 members of the association,
  - (c) must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of the nomination),
  - (d) may be accompanied by a statement not exceeding 200 words, and
  - (e) must be delivered to the secretary of the association at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (2) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations are to be received at the annual general meeting.
- (3) If insufficient further nominations are received, any vacant positions remaining on the committee are taken to be casual vacancies.
- (4) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected.
- (5) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot is to be held.
- (6) The ballot for the election of office-bearers and ordinary committee members of the committee is to be conducted at the annual general meeting in any usual and proper manner that the committee directs.
- (7) A person nominated as a candidate for election as an office-bearer or as an ordinary committee member of the association must be:
  - (a) a member of the association,
  - (b) a natural person (and not a body corporate), and
  - (c) ordinarily resident in New South Wales.

## 18. Secretary

- (1) The secretary of the association must, as soon as practicable after being appointed as secretary, lodge notice with the association of his or her address.
- (2) It is the duty of the secretary to keep minutes (whether in written or electronic form) of:
  - (a) all appointments of office-bearers and members of the committee, and
  - (b) the names of members of the committee present at a committee meeting or a general meeting, and
  - (c) all proceedings at committee meetings and general meetings.
- (3) Minutes of proceedings at a meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting or by the chairperson of the next succeeding meeting.
- (4) The signature of the chairperson may be transmitted by electronic means for the purposes of subclause (3).

## 19. Treasurer

It is the duty of the treasurer of the association to ensure:

- (a) that all money due to the association is collected and received and that all payments authorised by the association are made, and

- (b) that correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the association, including full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the association.

## 20. Casual vacancies

- (1) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the membership of the committee, the committee may appoint a member of the association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed is to hold office, subject to this constitution, until the annual general meeting next following the date of the appointment.
- (2) A casual vacancy in the office of a member of the committee occurs if the member:
  - (a) dies, or
  - (b) ceases to be a member of the association, or
  - (c) is or becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth, or
  - (d) resigns office by notice in writing given to the secretary, or
  - (e) is removed from office under clause 21, or
  - (f) becomes a mentally incapacitated person, or
  - (g) is absent without the consent of the committee from 3 consecutive meetings of the committee, or
  - (h) is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty for which the maximum penalty on conviction is imprisonment for not less than 3 months, or
  - (i) is prohibited from being a director of a company under Part 2D.6 (Disqualification from managing corporations) of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth.

## 21. Removal of committee members

- (1) The committee may, with a resolution passed by at least 75% of the members of the committee, remove any member of the committee from the office of member before the expiration of the member's term of office and may by resolution appoint another person to hold office until the expiration of the term of office of the member so removed.
- (2) If a member of the committee to whom a proposed resolution referred to in subclause (1) relates makes representations in writing to the secretary or president (not exceeding a reasonable length) and requests that the representations be notified to the members of the association, the secretary or the president may send a copy of the representations to each member of the association or, if the representations are not so sent, the member is entitled to require that the representations be read out at the meeting at which the resolution is considered.

## 22. Committee meetings and quorum

- (1) The committee must meet at least 6 times in each period of 12 months at the place and time that the committee may determine.
- (2) Additional meetings of the committee may be convened by the president or by any member of the committee.
- (3) Oral or written notice of a meeting of the committee must be given by the secretary to each member of the committee at least 48 hours (or any other period that may be agreed on by at least 75% of the members of the committee) before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.
- (4) A quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee can be constituted by:
  - (a) any 6 members of the committee, or
  - (b) at least half of the total members of the committee at that time,
 whichever number is smaller.

- (5) No business is to be transacted by the committee unless a quorum is present and if, within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting is to stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week.
- (6) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting is to be dissolved.
- (7) At a meeting of the committee:
  - (a) the president or, in the president's absence, either vice-president is to preside, or
  - (b) if the president and the vice-presidents are absent or unwilling to act, one of the remaining members of the committee chosen by the members present at the meeting is to preside.
- (8) Any person may only attend a committee meeting if invited to do so by the president and with the agreement of at least 75% of the members of the committee upon the commencement of that meeting. The attendee:
  - (a) has no right to receive a copy of the agenda, minutes or other documents circulated at the meeting,
  - (b) must keep confidential all matters discussed at the meeting unless otherwise permitted in writing by the president or secretary, and
  - (c) cannot vote on any matter that is to be decided at the committee meeting.

### **23. Use of technology at committee meetings**

- (1) A committee meeting may be held at 2 or more venues using any technology approved by the committee that gives each of the committee's members a reasonable opportunity to participate.
- (2) A committee member who participates in a committee meeting using that technology is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

### **24. Delegation by committee to sub-committee**

- (1) The committee may, by instrument in writing, delegate to one or more sub-committees (consisting of the member or members of the association that the committee thinks fit) the exercise of any of the functions of the committee that are specified in the instrument, other than:
  - (a) this power of delegation, and
  - (b) a function which is a duty imposed on the committee by the Act or by any other law.
- (2) A function the exercise of which has been delegated to a sub-committee under this clause may, while the delegation remains unrevoked, be exercised from time to time by the sub-committee in accordance with the terms of the delegation.
- (3) A delegation under this clause may be made subject to any conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any function, or as to time or circumstances, that may be specified in the instrument of delegation.
- (4) Despite any delegation under this clause, the committee may continue to exercise any function delegated.
- (5) Any act or thing done or suffered by a sub-committee acting in the exercise of a delegation under this clause has the same force and effect as it would have if it had been done or suffered by the committee.
- (6) The committee may, by instrument in writing, revoke wholly or in part any delegation under this clause.
- (7) A sub-committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

### **25. Voting and decisions**

- (1) Questions arising at a meeting of the committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the committee are to be determined by a majority of the votes of members of the committee or sub-committee present at the meeting.

- (2) Each member present at a meeting of the committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote but, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
- (3) Subject to satisfying a quorum pursuant to clause 22(4), the committee may act despite any vacancy on the committee.
- (4) Any act or thing done or suffered, or purporting to have been done or suffered, by the committee or by a sub-committee appointed by the committee, is valid and effectual despite any defect that may afterwards be discovered in the appointment or qualification of any member of the committee or sub-committee.

## 26. Written resolutions

- (1) The committee may pass a resolution in writing without a committee meeting being held if all of the committee members entitled to vote on a resolution sign and date a document containing a statement that they are in favour of the resolution set out in the document.
- (2) For the purposes of this clause, separate copies of a document (including in electronic form) may be used for signing by the committee members if the wording of the resolution and statement is identical in each copy.
- (3) Any such resolution will be passed when the last participating committee member signs.

## Part 4 General meetings

### 27. Annual general meetings

- (1) The association must hold its annual general meeting:
  - (a) within 6 months after the close of the association's financial year, or
  - (b) within any later time that may be allowed or prescribed under section 37(2)(b) of the Act.
- (2) The annual general meeting of the association is, subject to the Act and subclause (1), to be convened on the date and at the place and time that the committee thinks fit.
- (3) In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting is to include the following:
  - (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since that meeting,
  - (b) to receive from the committee reports on the activities of the association during the last preceding financial year,
  - (c) to elect office-bearers of the association and ordinary committee members,
  - (d) to receive and consider any financial statement or report required to be submitted to members under the Act.
- (4) An annual general meeting must be specified as that type of meeting in the notice convening it.

### 28. Special general meetings

- (1) The committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting of the association.
- (2) The committee must, on the requisition of at least 10% of the total number of members, convene a special general meeting of the association.
- (3) A requisition of members for a special general meeting:
  - (a) must be in writing, and
  - (b) must state the purpose or purposes of the meeting, and
  - (c) must be signed by the members making the requisition, and
  - (d) must be lodged with the secretary, and

- (e) may consist of several documents in a similar form, each signed by one or more of the members making the requisition.
- (4) If the committee fails to convene a special general meeting to be held within 1 month after the date on which a requisition of members for the meeting is lodged with the secretary, any one or more of the members who made the requisition may convene a special general meeting to be held not later than 3 months after that date.
- (5) A special general meeting convened by a member or members as referred to in subclause (4) must be convened as nearly as is practicable in the same manner as general meetings are convened by the committee.
- (6) For the purposes of subclause (3):
  - (a) a requisition may be in electronic form, and
  - (b) a signature may be transmitted, and a requisition may be lodged, by electronic means.

## 29. Notice

- (1) Except if the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the secretary must, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, give a notice to each member specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.
- (2) If the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the secretary must, at least 21 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause notice to be given to each member specifying, in addition to the matter required under subclause (1), the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.
- (3) No business other than that specified in the notice convening a general meeting is to be transacted at the meeting except, in the case of an annual general meeting, business which may be transacted under clause 27(3).
- (4) A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting may give notice in writing of that business to the secretary who must include that business in the next notice calling a general meeting given after receipt of the notice from the member.

## 30. Quorum for general meetings

- (1) No item of business is to be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under this constitution to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.
- (2) 8 members present (being members entitled under this constitution to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.
- (3) If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting:
  - (a) if convened on the requisition of members—is to be dissolved, and
  - (b) in any other case—is to stand adjourned to the same day in the following week at the same time and (unless another place is specified at the time of the adjournment by the person presiding at the meeting or communicated by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.
- (4) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being at least 3) are to constitute a quorum.

## 31. Presiding member

- (1) The president or, in the president's absence, the vice-president, is to preside as chairperson at each general meeting of the association.
- (2) If the president and the vice-president are absent or unwilling to act, the members present must elect one of their number to preside as chairperson at the meeting.

**32. Adjournment**

- (1) The chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business is to be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- (2) If a general meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, the secretary must give written or oral notice of the adjourned meeting to each member of the association stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- (3) Except as provided in subclauses (1) and (2), notice of an adjournment of a general meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting is not required to be given.

**33. Making of decisions**

- (1) Subject to clause 35, a question arising at a general meeting of the association is to be determined by:
  - (a) a show of hands or, if the meeting is one to which clause 38 applies, any appropriate corresponding method that the committee may determine, or
  - (b) if on the motion of the chairperson or if 5 or more members present at the meeting decide that the question should be determined by a written ballot—a written ballot.
- (2) If the question is to be determined by a show of hands, a declaration by the chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the association, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.
- (3) Subclause (2) applies to a method determined by the committee under subclause (1)(a) in the same way as it applies to a show of hands.
- (4) If the question is to be determined by a written ballot, the ballot is to be conducted in accordance with the directions of the chairperson.

**34. Voting**

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting of the association a member has one vote only.
- (2) In the case of an equality of votes on a question at a general meeting, the chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- (3) A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the association unless all money due and payable by the member to the association has been paid.
- (4) A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the association if the member is under 18 years of age.
- (5) Proxy voting must not be undertaken at or in respect of a general meeting.

**35. Election ballot and returning officer**

If more nominations are received than there are vacancies for each respective position, then:

- (a) the election of office-bearers of the association and ordinary committee members must be made by written ballot,
- (b) the chairperson of a general meeting must determine for a person to be appointed the returning officer and up to 2 tellers at that general meeting, who must not be nominated for election to the committee at that meeting, and
- (c) the tellers, under the supervision of the returning officer, will count the votes for the election of the office-bearers of the association and ordinary committee members.

**36. Special resolutions**

- (1) A special resolution may only be proposed or communicated to the association's members as a whole if it:
  - (a) has first been considered and approved by the committee, or

- (b) is to be considered at a special general meeting of the association that has been validly requisitioned in accordance with clause 28(3).
- (2) A special resolution may only be passed by the association in accordance with section 39 of the Act, including that it is supported by at least three-quarters of the votes cast by members of the association who are entitled to vote on the proposed resolution.

### 37. Postal or electronic ballots

The association may hold a postal or electronic ballot (as the committee determines) to determine any issue or proposal, which is to be conducted in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Regulation.

### 38. Use of technology at general meetings

- (1) A general meeting may be held at 2 or more venues using any technology approved by the committee that gives each of the association's members a reasonable opportunity to participate.
- (2) A member of an association who participates in a general meeting using that technology is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

## Part 5 Miscellaneous

### 39. Patron

Subject to his or her consent, the patron of the association will be the Governor of New South Wales, or any other person considered appropriate by the committee.

### 40. Delegation

For the avoidance of doubt, any action or obligation placed upon a person by this constitution can be delegated by that person to be performed by another person, although such delegation does not modify any ultimate responsibility for that action or obligation.

### 41. Insurance

The association may procure and maintain insurance.

### 42. Association is non-profit

Subject to the Act and the Regulation, the association must apply its funds and assets solely in pursuance of the objects of the association and must not conduct its affairs so as to provide a pecuniary gain (as defined in section 5 of the Act) for any of its members.

### 43. Funds

- (1) The funds of the association are to be derived from membership fees, donations, revenue generated from the association's initiatives and events, and, subject to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting, any other sources that the committee determines.
- (2) All money received by the association must be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of the association's bank or other authorised deposit-taking institution account.
- (3) Subject to any resolution passed by the association in general meeting, the funds of the association are to be used solely in pursuance of the objects of the association in the manner that the committee determines.
- (4) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by 2 authorised signatories.
- (5) The authorised signatories for the association's bank account(s) must be:
  - (a) the treasurer,
  - (b) the president, and

- (c) any other person deemed appropriate by resolution of the committee.

#### 44. Payments to committee members

- (1) Subject to subclause (2), committee members are not entitled to receive any remuneration or payment.
- (2) Payments may be made to committee members provided they are:
  - (a) a reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses properly incurred by that person in performing their duties, and
  - (b) approved by a resolution of the committee.

#### 45. Distribution of property on winding up of association

- (1) Subject to the Act and the Regulations, in a winding up of the association, any surplus property of the association is to be transferred to another organisation which:
  - (a) has similar objects,
  - (b) is affiliated with the United Nations, and
  - (c) is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.
- (2) In this clause, a reference to the surplus property of an association is a reference to that property of the association remaining after satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of the association and the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the association.

#### 46. Change of name, objects and constitution

An application for registration of a change in the association's name, objects or constitution in accordance with section 10 of the Act is to be made by the public officer or a committee member.

#### 47. Public officer

- (1) This clause sets out details concerning the role of the association's public officer, subject to Part 4 Division 2 of the Act.
- (2) The committee must appoint a natural person over 18 years of age, who is either a committee member or a member of the association, to be the public officer of the association.
- (3) A public officer will vacate the position if he or she:
  - (a) dies,
  - (b) resigns in writing to the committee,
  - (c) is removed from office by resolution of the committee,
  - (d) becomes bankrupt,
  - (e) becomes a mentally incapacitated person, or
  - (f) ceases to be a resident of New South Wales.
- (4) The committee must fill any vacancy in the position of public officer within 28 days.
- (5) The public officer is responsible for:
  - (a) notifying Fair Trading NSW of:
    - (i) their appointment as public officer within 28 days of their appointment, and
    - (ii) any change in the association's official address within 28 days,
  - (b) collecting all association documents from former committee members and delivering the documents to the new committee member,
  - (c) returning all association documents to a committee member within 14 days, upon vacating office, and

- (d) acting as the official contact for the association, including taking delivery of documents served on the association and bringing them to the attention of the committee as soon as practicable.
- (6) The public officer is automatically one of the authorised signatories for the association. However, the public officer is not automatically a signatory to the association's bank account.

#### **48. Custody and inspection of books and documents**

- (1) Except as otherwise provided by this constitution, all records, books and other documents relating to the association must be kept in New South Wales:
- (a) at the main premises of the association, in the custody of the public officer or a member of the association (as the committee determines), or
  - (b) if the association has no premises, at the association's official address, in the custody of the public officer.
- (2) The following documents must be open to inspection, free of charge, by a member of the association at any reasonable hour:
- (a) records, books and other financial documents of the association,
  - (b) this constitution,
  - (c) minutes of all committee meetings and general meetings of the association.
- (3) A member of the association may obtain a copy of any of the documents referred to in subclause (1) on payment of a fee of not more than \$1 for each page copied.
- (4) Despite subclauses (1) and (2), the committee may refuse to permit a member of the association to inspect or obtain a copy of records of the association that relate to confidential, personal, employment, commercial or legal matters or where to do so may be prejudicial to the interests of the association.

#### **49. Service of notices**

- (1) For the purpose of this constitution, a notice may be served on or given to a person:
- (a) by delivering it to the person personally, or
  - (b) by sending it by pre-paid post to the address of the person, or
  - (c) by sending it by facsimile transmission or some other form of electronic transmission to an address specified by the person for giving or serving the notice.
- (2) For the purpose of this constitution, a notice is taken, unless the contrary is proved, to have been given or served:
- (a) in the case of a notice given or served personally, on the date on which it is received by the addressee, and
  - (b) in the case of a notice sent by pre-paid post, on the date when it would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post, and
  - (c) in the case of a notice sent by email, on the date it was sent.

#### **50. Financial year**

The financial year of the association is each period of 12 months after the expiration of the previous financial year of the association, commencing on 1 July and ending on the following 30 June.