



Disability
Justice
Australia Inc.

ABN: 95 702 434 250

Registrable Australian Body Number
ARBN: 629 441 078
Corporations Act 2001
Sub-section 601CU (1)

The Rules of Disability Justice Australia Incorporated

(As amended on the 22 September 2021 in accordance with Rule 77)

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

1 Name

The name of the incorporated association is “Disability Justice Australia Incorporated”, in these rules referred to as the “Association”.

2 Organisational Details

2.1 Our Vision

To be the leading provider of advocacy and support services for people with disabilities.

2.2 Our Mission

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities through innovative and person-centred solutions.

2.3 Our Objectives

- (a) To provide a range of services that are responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and their families
- (b) To promote and protect the human rights of people with disabilities; and
- (c) To provide advocacy and support services to facilitate and support the achievement of the above objectives.

2.4 Our Philosophy

- (a) We are accessible and non-discriminatory in everything we do
- (b) We are specialists in our field with a proud history of achievement and outcomes for people with disabilities.
- (c) We have a strong commitment to disability rights.
- (d) We strive for excellence in everything we do.

2.5 Our Values

We promote, empower, enhance, and protect the human rights of people with disabilities by:

- (a) Supporting their full and effective participation and inclusion in society.
- (b) Respecting their intrinsic dignity.
- (c) Recognising their right to equality of opportunity.
- (d) Showing respect for individual differences regardless of disability, age, gender, culture, heritage, language, faith, sexual identity and relationship status.
- (e) Respecting their right to independence and to make their own choices
- (f) Having preventative measures in place to ensure they are free from discrimination, exploitation, abuse, harm, neglect and violence.
- (g) Making our services and our built environment accessible;
- (h) Providing advocacy and support services that are based on the minimal restrictive options and are contemporary, evidence-based, transparent, and capable of review;
 - (i) Recognising the role of families, friends and carers in safeguarding and upholding their rights; and by
 - (j) Working in collaboration and/or in partnership with other organisations and community members to support individuals to connect to family, friends, and their chosen communities

3 Financial year

The financial year of the Association is each period of 12 months ending on the 30 June.

4 Definitions

In these Rules—

absolute majority of the Board, means a majority of the Board members currently holding office and entitled to vote at a Board meeting (as distinct from a majority of Board members present at a Board meeting);

Advocacy for people with disability is speaking, acting, or writing with minimal conflict of interest on behalf of the interests of a person or group, to promote, protect and defend the welfare of and justice for either the person or group by:

- (a) Acting in a partisan manner (i.e., being on their side and no one else's);
- (b) Being primarily concerned with their fundamental needs;
- (c) Remaining loyal and accountable to them in a way which is empathic and vigorous (whilst respecting the rights of others); and

(d) Ensuring duty of care at all times.

Associate Member means an organisation admitted to associate membership in accordance with these Rules

Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) means the regulatory authority for charities and not-for-profit organisations within Australia. It is responsible for registering charities and non-profit organisations, ensuring their compliance with Australian law, and for keeping a public register of registered organisations.

Board means the Board having management of the business of the Association

Board meeting means a meeting of the Board held in accordance with these Rules

Board member means a member of the Board elected or appointed under Division 3 of Part 5

Chairperson of a general meeting or Board meeting, means the person chairing the meeting as required under rule 46

Chief Executive Officer means the chief executive officer appointed by the Board to manage the day-to-day operations of the Association.

Disability means a disability as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)

Disciplinary appeal meeting means a meeting of the members of the Association convened under Rule 23(3)

Disciplinary meeting means a meeting of the Board convened for the purposes of Rule 22;

Disciplinary sub-committee means the sub-committee appointed under Rule 20;

Financial year means the 12-month period specified in Rule 3;

Full Member means an individual who is admitted to full membership in accordance with these Rules and does not include Individual Members or Associate Members.

General meeting means a general meeting of the members of the Association convened in accordance with Part 4 and includes an annual general meeting, a special general meeting, and a disciplinary appeal meeting;

Individual Member means a member of the Association who is admitted to individual membership in accordance with these Rules and does not include Full Members or Associate Members.

Member means a member of the Association;

President means the president of the Association.

Reasonable adjustments has the meaning set out in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth).

Rules means these rules of association, and also referred to as the Constitution.

Secretary means the secretary of the Association.

Special resolution means a resolution that requires not less than three-quarters of the members voting at a general meeting, whether in person or by proxy, to vote in favour of the resolution;

The Act means the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and includes any regulations made under that Act;

The Registrar means the Registrar of Incorporated Associations.

Treasurer means the treasurer of the Association.

Vice-President means the vice-president of the Association.

PART 2—POWERS OF ASSOCIATION

5 Powers of Association

- (1) Subject to the Act, the Association has power to do all things incidental or conducive to achieve its objectives.
- (2) Without limiting Rule 5(1) the Association may—
 - (a) Acquire, hold, and dispose of real or personal property;
 - (b) Open and operate accounts with financial institutions;
 - (c) Invest its money in any security in which trust monies may lawfully be invested;
 - (d) Raise and borrow money on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit;
 - (e) Secure the repayment of money raised or borrowed, or the payment of a debt or liability;
 - (f) Appoint agents to transact business on its behalf; and
 - (g) Enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.
- (3) The Association may only exercise its powers and use its income and assets (including any surplus) for its objectives.

6 Not for profit organisation

- (1) The Association must not distribute any surplus, income, or assets directly or indirectly to its members.
- (2) Rule 6 (1) does not prevent the Association from paying a member—
 - (a) Reimbursement for expenses properly incurred by the member;
 - (b) For goods or services provided by the member; or
 - (c) For that member's service as a Board member;If this is done in good faith on terms no more favourable than if the member was not a member.

PART 3—MEMBERS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND GRIEVANCES

Division 1—Membership

7 Minimum number of members

The Association must have at least 9 members.

8 Who is eligible to be a member?

Any person or organisation that supports the objectives of the Association is eligible for membership.

The membership of the Association is divided into the following classes

(A) Full Membership

(1) To be eligible for Full Membership, the applicant must:

- (a) Be an individual aged 18 years or over; and
- (b) Have a Disability.
 - (i) Full Members have one vote at all general meetings of the Association.
 - (ii) Full Members are eligible for election to the Board.

(B) Individual Membership

(1) To be eligible for Individual Membership, the applicant must:

- (a) Be an individual aged 18 years or over; and
- (b) Be a parent, carer, informal support, or guardian of a person with a Disability (of any age) where the person with the Disability they support does not have Full Membership themselves; or
- (c) Demonstrate qualifications, knowledge, skills, expertise, and relevant experience as the Board may determine from time to time.
- (d) Individual Members have one vote at all general meetings of the Association.
- (e) Individual Members are eligible for appointment to the Board under Rule 44(b).

(C) Associate Membership

- (a) Is open to any organisation or its representative that is not eligible for Full Membership.
- (b) Associate Members are not entitled to vote at meetings
 - (1) There are two types of Associate Members:
 - (i) Charitable Membership: This is for charitable organisations that provide services to people with a Disability and their families and are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).
 - (ii) Corporate Membership: This is for organisations that provide services to people with a Disability and their families but are not registered charities with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

9 Application for membership

- (1) To apply to become a member of the Association, a person must submit an application to a Board member or employee of the Association stating that the person—
 - (a) Wishes to become a member of the Association and specifying the class of membership being applied for
 - (b) Supports the objectives of the Association; and
 - (c) Agrees to comply with these Rules.
- (2) The application may be accompanied by the joining fee.

Note: The joining fee is the fee (if any) determined by the Association under rule 12(a).
- (3) Full Members may have their application completed by a support person on their behalf

10 Consideration of application

- (1) As soon as practicable after an application for membership is received, the Board must decide by resolution whether to accept or reject the application.
- (2) The Board may decide by resolution to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the power to accept or reject an application for membership.
- (3) The Board or the Chief Executive Officer (as applicable) must notify the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as practicable after the decision is made.
- (4) If the Board or the Chief Executive Officer (as applicable) rejects the application, it must return any money accompanying the application to the applicant.
- (5) No reason need be given for the rejection of an application.

11 New membership

- (1) If an application for membership is approved by the Board or the Chief Executive Officer (as the case may be)
 - (a) The resolution to accept the membership must be recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting; and
 - (b) The Secretary or his/her delegate must, as soon as practicable, enter the name and address of the new member, and the date of becoming a member, in the register of members.
- (2) A person becomes a member of the Association and, subject to Rule 13 (b), is entitled to exercise his or her rights of membership from the date, whichever is the later, on which:
 - (a) The Board approves the person's membership; or
 - (b) The person pays the joining fee.

12 Annual subscription and fee on joining

- (1) At each annual general meeting, the Association must determine:
 - (a) The amount of the annual subscription (if any) for the following financial year; and
 - (b) The date for payment of the annual subscription.
- (2) The Association may determine that a lower annual subscription is payable by Associate Members.
- (3) The Association may determine that any new member who joins after the start of a financial year must, for that financial year, pay a fee equal to:
 - (a) The full annual subscription; or
 - (b) A pro rata annual subscription based on the remaining part of the financial year; or
 - (c) A fixed amount determined from time to time by the Association.
- (4) The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual subscription by the due date are suspended until the subscription is paid.

13 General rights of members

- (1) A member of the Association who is entitled to vote has the right:
 - (a) To receive notice of general meetings and of proposed special resolutions in the manner and time prescribed by these Rules;
 - (b) To submit items of business for consideration at a general meeting;
 - (c) To attend and be heard at general meetings;
 - (d) To vote at a general meeting;
 - (e) To have access to the minutes of general meetings and other documents of the Association as provided under Rule 74; and
 - (f) To inspect the register of members.
- (2) A member is entitled to vote if:
 - (a) The member is a member other than an Associate Member; and
 - (b) More than 10 business days have passed since he or she became a member of the Association; and
 - (c) The member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason.

14 Associate members

An associate member must not vote but may have other rights as determined by the Board or by resolution at a general meeting.

15 Rights not transferable

The rights of a member are not transferable and end when membership ceases.

16 Ceasing membership

- (1) The membership of a person ceases on resignation, expulsion, or death.
- (2) If a person ceases to be a member of the Association, the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the date the person ceased to be a member in the register of members.

17 Resigning as a member

- (1) A member may resign by giving written notice to the Association. In the case of a person unable to write, written notice can be given by their support person.
- (2) A member is taken to have resigned if:
 - (a) The member's annual subscription is more than 12 months in arrears; or
 - (b) Where no annual subscription is payable:
 - (i) The Secretary has made a written request to the member to confirm that he or she wishes to remain a member; and
 - (ii) The member has not, within 3 months after receiving that request, confirmed in writing that he or she wishes to remain a member.

18 Register of members

- (1) The Secretary or his/her delegate must keep and maintain a register of members that includes:
 - (a) For each current member:
 - (i) The member's name;
 - (ii) The address for notice last given by the member;
 - (iii) The date of becoming a member;
 - (iv) If the member is an associate member, a note to that effect;
 - (v) Any other information determined by the Board; and
 - (b) For each former member, the date of ceasing to be a member.
- (2) Any member may, at a reasonable time and free of charge, inspect the register of members.

Division 2—Disciplinary action

19 Grounds for taking disciplinary action

The Association may take disciplinary action against a member in accordance with this Division if it is determined that the member

- (1) Has failed to comply with these Rules;
- (2) Refuses to support the objectives of the Association; or
- (3) Has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Association.

20 Disciplinary sub-committee

- (1) If the Board is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a member, the Board must appoint a disciplinary sub-committee to hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the member.
- (2) The members of the disciplinary sub-committee:
 - (a) May be Board members, members of the Association or anyone else; but
 - (b) Must not be biased against, or in favour of, the member concerned.

21 Notice to member

- (1) Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the Secretary must give written notice to the member:
 - (a) Stating that the Association proposes to take disciplinary action against the member;
 - (b) Stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action;
 - (c) Specifying the date, place, and time of the meeting at which the disciplinary sub-committee intends to consider the disciplinary action (the disciplinary meeting); and
 - (d) Advising the member that he or she may do one or both of the following:
 - (i) Attend the disciplinary meeting and address the disciplinary sub-committee at that meeting;
 - (ii) Give a written statement to the disciplinary sub-committee at any time before the disciplinary meeting; and
 - (iii) Setting out the member's appeal rights under rule 23.
- (2) The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days, and no later than 14 days, before the disciplinary meeting is held.

22 Decision of sub-committee

- (1) At the disciplinary meeting, the disciplinary sub-committee must:
 - (a) Give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) Consider any written statement submitted by the member.
- (2) After complying with Rule 22(1), the disciplinary sub-committee may:
 - (a) Take no further action against the member; or
 - (b) subject to Rule 22(3):

- (i) Reprimand the member;
 - (ii) Suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period; or
 - (iii) Expel the member from the Association.
- (3) The disciplinary sub-committee may not fine the member.
- (4) The suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the disciplinary sub-committee under this Rule takes effect immediately after the vote is passed.

23 Appeal rights

- (1) A person whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the Association under Rule 22 may give notice to the effect that he or she wishes to appeal against the suspension or expulsion.
- (2) The notice must be in writing and given:
 - (a) To the disciplinary sub-committee immediately after the vote to suspend or expel the person is taken; or
 - (b) To the Secretary not later than 48 hours after the vote.
- (3) If a person has given notice under Rule 23(2), a disciplinary appeal meeting must be convened by the Board as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 21 days, after the notice is received.
- 4) Notice of the disciplinary appeal meeting must be given to each member of the Association who is entitled to vote as soon as practicable and must:
 - (a) Specify the date, time, and place of the meeting; and
 - (b) State:
 - (i) The name of the person against whom the disciplinary action has been taken;
 - (ii) The grounds for taking that action; and
 - (iii) That at the disciplinary appeal meeting the members present must vote on whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.

24 Conduct of disciplinary appeal meeting

- (1) At a disciplinary appeal meeting:
 - (a) No business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted;
 - (b) The Board must state the grounds for suspending or expelling the member and the reasons for taking that action; and
 - (c) The person whose membership has been suspended or who has been expelled must be given an opportunity to be heard.

- (2) After complying with Rule 24(1), the members present and entitled to vote at the meeting must vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.
- (3) A member may not vote by proxy at the meeting.
- (4) The decision is upheld if not less than three quarters of the members voting at the meeting vote in favour of the decision.

Division 3 – Grievance procedure

25 Application

- (1) The grievance procedure set out in this Division applies to disputes under these Rules between:
 - (a) A member and another member;
 - (b) A member and the Board;
 - (c) A member and the Association.
- (2) A member must not initiate a grievance procedure in relation to a matter that is the subject of a disciplinary procedure until the disciplinary procedure has been completed

26 Parties must attempt to resolve the dispute

The parties to a dispute must attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within 14 days of the dispute coming to the attention of each party.

27 Appointment of mediator

- (1) If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by Rule 26, the parties must within 10 days:
 - (a) Notify the Board of the dispute;
 - (b) Agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
 - (c) Attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (2) The mediator must be:
 - (a) A person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - (b) In the absence of agreement:
 - (i) If the dispute is between a member and another member, a person appointed by the Board; or
 - (ii) If the dispute is between a member and the Board or the Association, a person appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.
- (3) A mediator appointed by the Board may be a member or former member of the Association but in any case must not be a person who:

- (a) Has a personal interest in the dispute; or
- (b) Is biased in favour of or against any party.

28 Mediation process

- (1) The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, must:
 - (a) Give each party every opportunity to be heard;
 - (b) Allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
 - (c) Ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.
- (2) The mediator must not determine the dispute.

29 Failure to resolve dispute by mediation

If the mediation process does not resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

PART 4—GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

30 Annual general meetings

- (1) The Board must convene an annual general meeting of the Association to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (2) Despite Rule 30 (1) the Association may hold its first annual general meeting at any time within 18 months after its incorporation.
- (3) The Board may determine the date, time, and place of the annual general meeting.
- (4) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting is as follows—
 - (a) To confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;
 - (b) To receive and consider—
 - (i) The annual report of the Board on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year; and
 - (ii) The financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Board in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
 - (c) To elect the members of the Board;
 - (d) To confirm or vary the amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee.
- (5) The annual general meeting may also conduct any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

31 Special general meetings

- (1) Any general meeting of the Association, other than an annual general meeting or a disciplinary appeal meeting, is a special general meeting.
- (2) The Board may convene a special general meeting whenever it thinks fit.
- (3) No business other than that set out in the notice under Rule 33 may be conducted at the meeting.

32 Special general meeting held at request of members

- (1) The Board must convene a special general meeting if a request to do so is made in accordance with Rule 32(2) by at least 10% of the total number of members.
- (2) A request for a special general meeting must—
 - (a) Be in writing;
 - (b) State the business to be considered at the meeting and any resolutions to be proposed;
 - (c) Include the names and signatures of the members requesting the meeting; and
 - (d) Be given to the Secretary.
- (3) If the Board does not convene a special general meeting within one month after the date on which the request is made, the members making the request (or any of them) may convene the special general meeting.
- (4) A special general meeting convened by members under Rule 32(3):
 - (a) Must be held within 3 months after the date on which the original request was made; and
 - (b) May only consider the business stated in that request.
- (5) The Association must reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by the members convening a special general meeting under Rule 32(4):

33 Notice of general meetings

- (1) The Secretary (or, in the case of a special general meeting convened under Rule 32(3), the members convening the meeting) must give to each Full Member and Individual Member of the Association:
 - (a) At least 21 days' notice of a general meeting if a special resolution is to be proposed at the meeting; or
 - (b) At least 14 days' notice of a general meeting in any other case.
- (2) The notice must:
 - (a) Specify the date, time, and place of the meeting;
 - (b) Indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting;

- (c) If a special resolution is to be proposed:
 - (i) State in full the proposed resolution; and
 - (ii) State the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution; and
 - (d) Comply with Rule 34(5).
- (3) This Rule does not apply to a disciplinary appeal meeting.

Note: Rule 23 (4) sets out the requirements for notice of a disciplinary appeal meeting.

34 Proxies

- (1) A member may appoint another member as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at a general meeting other than at a disciplinary appeal meeting.
- (2) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the member making the appointment.
- (3) The member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on his or her behalf, otherwise the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as he or she sees fit.
- (4) If the Board has approved a form for the appointment of a proxy, the member may use any other form that clearly identifies the person appointed as the member's proxy and that has been signed by the member.
- (5) Notice of a general meeting given to a member under Rule 33 must:
 - (a) State that the member may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting; and
 - (b) Include a copy of any form that the Board has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (6) A form appointing a proxy must be given to the Chairperson of the meeting at least 7 days before the commencement of the meeting.
- (7) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Association no later than 7 days before the commencement of the meeting.

35 Use of technology and Reasonable Adjustments

35.1 Use of technology

- (1) A member not physically present at a general meeting may be permitted to participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that member, and the members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a member participating in a general meeting as permitted under Rule 35.1 is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

35.2 Reasonable Adjustments

Reasonable adjustments will be offered to:

- (a) All members to assist those who are unable to do any act or thing the member may or must do pursuant to or as contemplated by the Rules; and
- (b) To those who request them in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth).

36 Quorum at general meetings

- (1) No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members is present.
- (2) The quorum for a general meeting is the presence (physically, by proxy or as allowed under Rule 35) of 10 members entitled to vote.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting—

- (a) In the case of a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members under Rule 32—the meeting must be dissolved;

Note: If a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members is dissolved under this Rule, the business that was to have been considered at the meeting is taken to have been dealt with. If members wish to have the business reconsidered at another special meeting, the members must make a new request under Rule 32.

- (b) In any other case—
 - (i) The meeting must be adjourned to a date not more than 21 days after the adjournment; and
 - (ii) notice of the date, time, and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given at the meeting and confirmed by written notice given to all members as soon as practicable after the meeting.

- (4) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time to which a general meeting has been adjourned under Rule 36(3) (b) the members present at the meeting (if not fewer than 3) may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present.

37 Adjournment of general meeting

- (1) The Chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of a majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting to another time at the same place or at another place.
- (2) Without limiting Rule 37(1), a meeting may be adjourned:
 - (a) If there is insufficient time to deal with the business at hand; or
 - (b) To give the members more time to consider an item of business.

- (3) No business may be conducted on the resumption of an adjourned meeting other than the business that remained unfinished when the meeting was adjourned.
- (4) Notice of the adjournment of a meeting under this Rule is not required unless the meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, in which case notice of the meeting must be given in accordance with Rule 33.

38 Voting at general meeting

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting:
 - (a) Subject to Rule 38(3), each member who is entitled to vote has one vote;
 - (b) Members may vote personally or by proxy; and
 - (c) Except in the case of a special resolution, the question must be decided on a majority of votes.
- (2) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (3) If the question is whether or not to confirm the minutes of a previous meeting, only members who were present at that meeting may vote.
- (4) This Rule does not apply to a vote at a disciplinary appeal meeting conducted under Rule 24.

39 Special resolutions

A special resolution is passed if not less than three quarters of the members voting at a general meeting (whether in person or by proxy) vote in favour of the resolution.

Note: In addition to certain matters specified in the Act, a special resolution is required:

- (a) To remove a Board member from office; and
- (b) To alter these Rules, including changing the name or any of the objectives of the Association.

40 Determining whether resolution carried

- (1) Subject to Rule 40(2), the Chairperson of a general meeting may, on the basis of a show of hands, declare that a resolution has been:
 - (a) Carried;
 - (b) Carried unanimously;
 - (c) Carried by a particular majority; or
 - (d) Lost, and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting is conclusive proof of that fact.
- (2) If a poll (where votes are cast in writing) is demanded by three or more members on any question:
 - (a) The poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the Chairperson of the meeting; and

- (b) The Chairperson must declare the result of the resolution on the basis of the poll.
- (3) A poll demanded on the election of the Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately.
- (4) A poll demanded on any other question must be taken before the close of the meeting at a time determined by the Chairperson.

41 Minutes of general meeting

- (1) The Board must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each general meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- (3) In addition, the minutes of each annual general meeting must include:
 - (a) The names of the members attending the meeting;
 - (b) Proxy forms given to the Chairperson of the meeting under Rule 34(6);
 - (c) The financial statements submitted to the members in accordance with Rule 30(4)(b)(ii);
 - (d) The certificate signed by two Board members certifying that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association; and
 - (e) Any audited accounts and auditor's report or report of a review accompanying the financial statements that are required under the Act.

PART 5—BOARD

Division 1—Powers of Board

42 Role and powers

- (1) The business of the Association must be managed by or under the direction of a Board.
- (2) The Board may exercise all the powers of the Association except those powers that these Rules or the Act require to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the Association.
- (3) The Board may:
 - (a) Appoint and remove staff, including the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with relevant employment legislation; and
 - (b) Establish sub-committees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate.

43 Delegation

- (1) The Board may delegate to a member of the Board, a sub-committee, or staff (including the Chief Executive Officer or another employee), any of its powers and functions other than:

- (a) This power of delegation; or
 - (b) A duty imposed on the Board by the Act or any other law.
- (2) The delegation must be recorded in the minutes of a Board meeting and may be subject to the conditions and any limitations the Board considers appropriate.
- (3) The Board may, in writing, revoke a delegation wholly or in part.

Division 2—Composition of Board and duties of members

44 Composition of Board

- (1) The Board consists of at least 12 and no more than 16 Full Members as follows:
- (a) A President;
 - (b) A Vice President;
 - (c) A Secretary;
 - (d) A Treasurer; and
 - (e) eight to twelve Full Members elected under Rule 52.
- (2) The Board may appoint four additional individuals to the Board in accordance with any need identified by the Board as being required to be fulfilled taking into account, but not limited to, the candidate's particular qualifications, knowledge, skills, expertise and relevant experience. Any such individual, if not already a member of the Association, must lodge a membership application and once approved as an Individual Member will be entitled to vote at Board meetings.
- (3) Any appointment under Rule 44(2) will be on such terms and conditions as the Board sees fit and at least for a term of two years (but no more than three consecutive two year terms).

45 General Duties

- (1) As soon as practicable after being elected or appointed to the Board, each Board member must become familiar with these Rules and the Act.
- (2) The Board is collectively responsible for ensuring that the Association complies with the Act and that individual members of the Board comply with these Rules.
- (3) Board members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence.
- (4) Board members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties:
- (a) In good faith in the best interests of the Association; and
 - (b) For a proper purpose.
- (5) Board members and former Board members must not make improper use of:
- (a) Their position; or

- (b) Information acquired by virtue of holding their position, so as to gain an advantage for themselves or any other person or to cause detriment to the Association.
- (6) In addition to any duties imposed by these Rules, a Board member must perform any other duties imposed from time to time by resolution at a general meeting.

46 President and Vice-President

- (1) Subject to Rule 46(b), the President or, in the President's absence, the Vice-President is the Chairperson for any general meetings and for any Board meetings.
- (2) If the President and the Vice-President are both absent, or are unable to preside, the Chairperson of the meeting must be:
 - (a) In the case of a general meeting, a member elected by the other members present; or
 - (b) In the case of a Board meeting, a Board member elected by the other Board members present.

47 Secretary

- (1) The Secretary must perform any duty or function required under the Act to be performed by the secretary of an incorporated association.
- (2) The Secretary must:
 - (a) Maintain the register of members in accordance with Rule 18;
 - (b) keep custody of the common seal (if any) of the Association and, except for the financial records referred to in Rule 69(3) all books, documents, and securities of the Association in accordance with Rules 71 and 74;
 - (c) subject to the Act and these Rules, provide members with access to the register of members, the minutes of general meetings and other books and documents; and
 - (d) Perform any other duty or function imposed on the Secretary by these Rules.
- (3) The Secretary, or his or her delegate must notify the ACNC of his or her appointment within 14 days after the appointment.

48 Treasurer

- (1) The Treasurer must:
 - (a) Receive all moneys paid to or received by the Association and issue receipts for those moneys in the name of the Association;
 - (b) Ensure that all moneys received are paid into the account of the Association within 5 working days after receipt; and
 - (c) Make any payments authorised by the Board or by a general meeting of the Association from the Association's funds.

- (2) The Treasurer must:
 - (a) Ensure that the financial records of the Association are kept in accordance with the Act; and
 - (b) Coordinate the preparation of the financial statements of the Association and their certification by the Board prior to their submission to the annual general meeting of the Association.

Division 3—Election of Board members and tenure of office

49 Who is eligible to be a Board member?

A member is eligible to be a Board member if the member:

- (a) Is 18 years or over; and
- (b) Is a Full Member or an Individual Member; and
- (c) Is elected or appointed by the Board.

50 Positions to be declared vacant

- (1) This Rule applies to the first annual general meeting of the Association after its incorporation.
- (2) The Chairperson of the meeting must declare all positions on the Board vacant and hold elections for those positions in accordance with Rules 51 to 53.

51 Nominations

- (1) Prior to the election of each position on the Board, the Chairperson must call for nominations to fill that position in accordance with the Nomination Form. Nominations must be received not less than 7 days prior to the meeting.
- (2) An eligible member of the Association may nominate themselves or be nominated by another member using the form prescribed by the Board.

52 Election of Board members

- (1) At the annual general meeting, elections must be held for the vacant positions on the Board.
- (2) These elections are to be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer.
- (3) If more members are nominated than there are vacancies, a ballot must be held in accordance with Rule 53.
- (4) At the first Board meeting after these elections, the Board will elect the Office Bearers of the Association with the Chief Executive Officer as returning officer to conduct the elections.

53 Ballot

- (1) The election of Board members will be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer subject to Rule 52 (3)
- (2) If a ballot is required the Chief Executive Officer will act as returning officer to conduct the ballot.

- (3) Before the ballot is taken, each candidate or their chosen support person may make a short speech or presentation in support of his or her election.
- (4) The election must be by secret ballot.
- (5) The returning officer must give a blank piece of paper to:
 - (a) Each member present in person; and
 - (b) Each proxy appointed by a member.
- (6) If the ballot is for a single position, the voter must mark the ballot paper with the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote.
- (7) If the ballot is for more than one position:
 - (a) The voter must write on the ballot paper the name of each candidate for whom they wish to vote;
 - (b) The voter must not write the names of more candidates than the number to be elected.
- (8) Ballot papers that do not comply with Rule 53 (7) (b) are not to be counted.
- (9) Each ballot paper on which the name of a candidate has been written counts as one vote for that candidate.
- (10) The returning officer must declare elected the candidate or, in the case of an election for more than one position, the candidates who received the most votes.
- (11) If the returning officer is unable to declare the result of an election under Rule 53 (10) because 2 or more candidates received the same number of votes, the returning officer must:
 - (a) Conduct a further election for the position in accordance with Rules 53 (4) to (10) to decide which of those candidates is to be elected; or
 - (b) With the agreement of those candidates, decide by lot which of them is to be elected.

54 Term of office

- (1) At each annual general meeting:
 - (a) Any Board member appointed by the Board to fill a casual vacancy under Rule 56 must retire; and
 - (b) At least one-third of the Board members elected under Rule 44(1) must retire.
- (2) The Board members who must retire at each annual general meeting under Rule 54(1)(b) will be the Board members who have been longest in office since last being elected. Where Board members were elected on the same day, the Board member(s) to retire will be decided by lot unless they agree otherwise.

- (3) Other than a Board member appointed under Rule 44(2) or Rule 56, a Board member's office starts at the end of the annual general meeting at which they are elected and ends at the end of the annual general meeting at which they retire.
- (4) Subject to Rule 44(2), each Board member must retire at least once every three years.
- (5) A Board member who retires under Rule 54(2) may nominate for election or re-election, subject to Rule 54(6).
- (6) A Board member who has held office for a continuous period of 9 years or more may only be re-appointed or re-elected by a special resolution.
- (7) A general meeting of the Association may:
 - (a) By special resolution remove a Board member from office; and
 - (b) Elect an eligible member of the Association to fill the vacant position in accordance with this Division.
- (8) A member who is the subject of a proposed special resolution under Rule 54(7)(b) may make representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the Association and may request that the representations be provided to the members of the Association.
- (9) The Secretary or the President may give a copy of the representations to each member of the Association or, if they are not so given, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting at which the special resolution is to be proposed.

55 Vacation of office

- (1) A Board member may resign from the Board by written notice addressed to the Board.
- (2) A person ceases to be a Board member if he or she:
 - (a) Ceases to be a member of the Association;
 - (b) Fails to attend 3 consecutive Board meetings (other than special or urgent Board meetings) without leave of absence under Rule 66; or
 - (c) Otherwise ceases to be a Board member by operation of section 78 of the Act.

56 Filling casual vacancies

- (1) The Board may appoint an eligible member of the Association to fill a position on the Board that:
 - (a) Has become vacant under Rule 55; or
 - (b) Was not filled by election at the last annual general meeting.
- (2) If a vacancy cannot be filled in accordance with Rule 56(1) the Board may appoint a suitably qualified individual, subject to the requirements set out in Rule 44(2).

- (3) If the position of Secretary becomes vacant, the Board must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- (4) The Board may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

Division 4—Meetings of Board

57 Meetings of Board

- (1) The Board must meet at least 4 times in each year at the dates, times and places determined by the Board
- (2) The date, time, and place of the first Board meeting must be determined by the members of the Board as soon as practicable after the annual general meeting of the Association at which the members of the Board were elected.
- (3) Special Board meetings may be convened by the Chairperson or by any 5 members of the Board.

58 Notice of meetings

- (1) Notice of each Board meeting must be given to each Board member no later than 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- (2) Notice may be given of more than one Board meeting at the same time.
- (3) The notice must state the date, time, and place of the meeting.
- (4) If a special Board meeting is convened, the notice must include the general nature of the business to be conducted.
- (5) The only business that may be conducted at the meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

59 Urgent meetings

- (1) In cases of urgency, a meeting can be held without notice being given in accordance with Rule 58 provided that as much notice as practicable is given to each Board member by the quickest means practicable.
- (2) Any resolution made at the meeting must be passed by an absolute majority of the Board.
- (3) The only business that may be conducted at an urgent meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

60 Procedure and order of business

- (1) The procedure to be followed at a meeting of a Board must be determined from time to time by the Board.
- (2) The order of business may be determined by the members present at the meeting.

61 Use of technology

- (1) A Board member who is not physically present at a Board meeting may participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that Board member, and the Board members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.

- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a Board member participating in a Board meeting as permitted under Rule 61(1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

62 Quorum

- (1) No business may be conducted at a Board meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (2) The quorum for a Board meeting is the presence (in person or as allowed under Rule 61) of a majority of the Board members holding office
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a Board meeting:
 - (a) In the case of a special meeting, the meeting lapses; and
 - (b) In any other case, the meeting must be adjourned to a date no later than 14 days after the adjournment and notice of the time, date, and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given in accordance with Rule 58.

63 Voting

- (1) On any question arising at a Board meeting, each Board member present at the meeting has one vote.
- (2) A motion is carried if a majority of Board members present at the meeting vote in favour of the motion.
- (3) Rule 63(2) does not apply to any motion or question which is required by these Rules to be passed by an absolute majority of the Board.
- (4) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (5) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

64 Conflict of interest

- (1) A Board member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a Board meeting must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the Board.
- (2) The member:
 - (a) Must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; and
 - (b) Must not vote on the matter.

Note: Under section 81(3) of the Act, if there are insufficient Board members to form a quorum because a member who has a material personal interest is disqualified from voting on a matter, a general meeting may be called to deal with the matter.

- (3) This Rule does not apply to a material personal interest:

- (a) That exists only because the member belongs to a class of persons for whose benefit the Association is established; or
- (b) That the member has in common with all, or a substantial proportion of, the members of the Association.

65 Minutes of meeting

- (1) The Board must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each Board meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the following:
 - (a) The names of the members in attendance at the meeting;
 - (b) The business considered at the meeting;
 - (c) Any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote; and
 - (d) Any material personal interest disclosed under Rule 64.

66 Leave of absence

- (1) The Board may grant a Board member leave of absence from Board meetings for a period not exceeding 3 months.
- (2) The Board must not grant leave of absence retrospectively unless it is satisfied that it was not feasible for the Board member to seek the leave in advance.

PART 6—FINANCIAL MATTERS

67 Source of funds

The funds of the Association may be derived from joining fees, annual subscriptions, donations, fund-raising activities, grants, interest, and any other sources approved by the Board.

68 Management of funds

- (1) The Association must open accounts with financial institutions from which all expenditure of the Association is made and into which all of the Association's revenue is deposited.
- (2) Subject to any restrictions imposed by a general meeting of the Association, the Board may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.
- (3) The Board may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the Association (including by electronic funds transfer) up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the Board for each item on which the funds are expended.
- (4) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by 2 Board members or their delegate.

- (5) All funds of the Association must be deposited into the financial account of the Association no later than 5 working days after receipt.
- (6) With the approval of the Board, the Treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid from or paid into the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction.
- (7) The Board may delegate any of these functions to a suitably qualified staff member under the supervision of the Chief Executive Officer.

69 Financial records

- (1) The Association must keep financial records that:
 - (a) Correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance; and
 - (b) Enable financial statements to be prepared as required by the Act.
- (2) The Association must retain the financial records for 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.
- (3) The Treasurer must keep in his or her custody, or under his or her control:
 - (a) The financial records for the current financial year; and
 - (b) Any other financial records as authorised by the Board.

70 Financial statements

- (1) For each financial year, the Board must ensure that the requirements under the Act relating to the financial statements of the Association are met.
- (2) Without limiting Rule 70(1), those requirements include:
 - (a) The preparation of the financial statements;
 - (b) If required, the review or auditing of the financial statements;
 - (c) The certification of the financial statements by the Board;
 - (d) The submission of the financial statements to the annual general meeting of the Association; and
 - (e) The lodgement with the ACNC of the financial statements and accompanying reports, certificates, statements, and fee.

PART 7—GENERAL MATTERS

71 Common seal

- (1) The Association may have a common seal.
- (2) If the Association has a common seal:
 - (a) The name of the Association must appear in legible characters on the common seal;

- (b) A document may only be sealed with the common seal by the authority of the Board and the sealing must be witnessed by the signatures of two Board members; and
- (c) The common seal must be kept in the custody of the Secretary.

72 Registered address

The registered address of the Association is:

- (a) The address determined from time to time by resolution of the Board; or
- (b) If the Board has not determined an address to be the registered address, the postal address of the Secretary

73 Notice requirements

- (1) Any notice required to be given to a member or a Board member under these Rules may be given:
 - (a) By handing the notice to the member personally;
 - (b) By sending it by post to the member at the address recorded for the member on the register of members; or
 - (c) By email, facsimile transmission or any other electronic means.
- (2) Rule 73(1) does not apply to notice given under Rule 59.
- (3) Any notice required to be given to the Association or the Board may be given:
 - (a) By handing the notice to a member of the Board;
 - (b) By sending the notice by post to the registered address;
 - (c) By leaving the notice at the registered address; or
 - (d) If the Board determines that it is appropriate in the circumstances:
 - (i) By email to the email address of the Association or the Secretary; or
 - (ii) By facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the Association.

74 Custody and inspection of books and records

- (1) Members may on request inspect free of charge:
 - (a) The register of members;
 - (b) The minutes of general meetings; and
 - (c) Subject to Rule 74(2), the financial records, books, securities, and any other relevant document of the Association, including minutes of Board meetings.
- (2) The Board may refuse to permit a member to inspect 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.

- (3) The Board must on request make copies of these Rules available to members and applicants for membership free of charge.
- (4) Subject to Rule 74(2), a member may make a copy of any of the other records of the Association referred to in this Rule and the Association may charge a reasonable fee for provision of a copy of such a record.
- (5) For purposes of this Rule:

Relevant documents means the records and other documents, however compiled, recorded, or stored, that relate to the incorporation and management of the Association and includes the following:

 - (a) Its membership records;
 - (b) Its financial statements;
 - (c) Its financial records; and
 - (d) Records and documents relating to transactions, dealings, business, or property of the Association.

75 Winding up and cancellation

- (1) The Association may be wound up voluntarily by special resolution.
- (2) In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the Association, the surplus assets of the Association must not be distributed to any members or former members of the Association.
- (3) Subject to the Act and any court order made under section 133 of the Act, the surplus assets must be given to a body that:
 - (a) Has similar purposes to the Association;
 - (b) Which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members and prohibits the distribution of any surplus assets to its members to at least the same extent as the Association; and
 - (c) that is or are deductible gift recipients within the meaning of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth).
- (4) The body to which the surplus assets are to be given must be decided by special resolution.

76 Revocation of endorsement as a deductible gift recipient

- (1) If the Association's deductible gift recipient endorsement is revoked (whether or not the Association is to be wound up), any surplus gift funds must be transferred to one or more charities that meet the requirements of Rule 75 (3)(a), (3)(b) and (3)(c) as decided by special resolution
- (2) For the purpose of this clause:
 - (a) 'gift funds' means:
 - (i) Gifts of money or property for the principal purpose of the Association
 - (ii) Contributions made in relation to a fund-raising event held for the principal purpose of the Association, and

- (iii) Money received by the Association because of such gifts and contributions.
- (b) 'contributions' and 'fund-raising event' have the same meaning as in Division 30 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth)*.

77 Alteration of Rules

These Rules may only be altered by special resolution of a general meeting of the Association.

78 Transitional arrangements

- (1) Everything done under any previous rules of the Association shall continue to have the same operation and effect after the adoption of these Rules as if properly done under these Rules.
- (2) Any Board member elected or appointed under the Rules of the Association in effect immediately before the adoption of these Rules shall be taken to have been elected or appointed in accordance with Rules 44 and 52 and shall continue to hold office for the unexpired term of their office, subject to these Rules.