



NIGERIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IN
QUEENSLAND INC.
IA31321

CONSTITUTION

REGISTERED
JUNE 2026

Incorporated under the
Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld)

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1. INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS	4
1.1. DEFINITIONS	4
1.2. NAME	5
1.3. ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1981	5
1.4. INTERPRETATION	6
2. OBJECTS AND POWERS	6
2.1. OBJECTS	6
2.2. POWERS.....	6
3. MEMBERSHIP	7
3.1. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP.....	7
3.2. PATRONS.....	8
3.3. FEES AND LEVIES	8
3.4. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP	9
3.5. ADMISSION AND REJECTION OF NEW MEMBERS	9
3.6. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND RE-JOINING	10
3.7. ASSOCIATION REGISTERS.....	10
3.8. PROHIBITION ON USE OF INFORMATION ON REGISTER OF MEMBERS	11
4. RESIGNATION, DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS.....	11
4.1. RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.....	11
4.2. DISCIPLINE	11
4.3. APPEAL AGAINST REJECTION, SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP	12
4.4. APPEALS PANEL TO DECIDE APPEAL.....	13
5. GRIEVANCES	13
5.1. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE	13
5.2. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE NOT CONTINUED IN PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES	14
5.3. APPOINTMENT OF MEDIATOR	14
5.4. CONDUCT OF MEDIATION	15
5.5. REPRESENTATION FOR GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE	15
5.6. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION FOR GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE	16
6. THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEES AND DELEGATION.....	16
6.1. MEMBERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	16
6.2. TERMS OF OFFICE	17
6.3. FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.....	17
6.4. DELEGATION.....	18
6.5. APPOINTMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES	18
6.6. ACTS NOT AFFECTED BY DEFECTS OR DISQUALIFICATIONS.....	18
7. ELECTION, APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES ON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	19
7.1. ELECTING THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	19
7.2. RESIGNATION, REMOVAL OR VACATION OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER	20
7.3. VACANCIES ON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	22
8. MEETINGS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	22
8.1. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.....	22
8.2. SPECIAL MEETING OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.....	23
8.3. MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.....	23
8.4. QUORUM FOR, AND ADJOURNMENT OF, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING	24
8.5. RESOLUTIONS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WITHOUT MEETING	24
8.6. MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS.....	24
9. MEETINGS OF MEMBERS.....	25
9.1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS.....	25
9.2. GENERAL MEETINGS	26
9.3. QUORUM FOR, AND ADJOURNMENT OF, GENERAL MEETING.....	27

9.4.	PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETING	27
9.5.	VOTING AT GENERAL MEETING.....	28
9.6.	PROXIES.....	29
9.7.	MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETINGS	29
10.	SECRETARY.....	29
10.1.	APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF SECRETARY	29
10.2.	REMOVAL OF SECRETARY.....	30
10.3.	FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARY	30
11.	FINANCE.....	30
11.1.	FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS	30
11.2.	ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT	31
11.3.	NOT-FOR-PROFIT	31
11.4.	FINANCIAL YEAR.....	32
12.	DOCUMENTS AND LEGAL.....	32
12.1.	DOCUMENTS.....	32
12.2.	NOTICES.....	32
12.3.	COMMON SEAL AND EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS.....	32
12.4.	ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION	33
12.5.	BYLAWS.....	33
12.6.	INDEMNITY.....	33
12.7.	INSURANCE.....	33
13.	WINDING UP.....	33
13.1.	DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS ASSETS.....	33
13.2.	LIABILITY	34

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1. Introductory provisions

1.1. Definitions

1.1.1. In this constitution:

- a. **Act** means the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* as modified and amended from time to time and includes any regulations made under that Act and any exemption or modification to that Act applying to the association;
- b. **association** means Nigerian Community Association In Queensland Inc., the incorporated association to which this constitution applies;
- c. **benefits** means all forms of compensation paid or provided by the association or on behalf of the association in exchange for services;
- d. **by lot** means making a determination or choice by lottery. For example, conducting a draw at random;
- e. **casual vacancy**, on the management committee, means a vacancy that occurs when a management committee member resigns, dies or otherwise stops holding office, or a vacancy that occurs if no candidate is elected to any vacant management committee position at a general meeting;
- f. **constitution** means rules as defined in the Act;
- g. **day / days** means, where a period is expressed to be a specified number of days, the period is to be calculated by including the day on which the act or event provided for occurs;
- h. **ex-officio** means by virtue of their office;
- i. **general meeting** means a meeting of the association's eligible voting members and includes all general meetings (annual general meetings, general meetings and special general meetings);
- j. **imprest system** means the management of funds in an account whereby a fixed balance is maintained by regular replenishments;
- k. **material personal interest** means a real or apparent conflict of interest that could influence an individual's ability to act in an independent and unbiased manner;
- l. **member** means a person who has been duly accepted as such by the management committee in accordance with this constitution;
- m. **membership fees** means any fees payable to the association for the receipt of membership rights and privileges;
- n. **officer** means any management committee member, secretary or senior employee of the association;
- o. **present** means:
 - i at a management committee meeting, see clause 8.1.5; or
 - ii at a general meeting, see clause 9.4.2.

- p. **quorum** means the minimum number of eligible voting members who must be present at a management committee meeting or general meeting in order to constitute a valid meeting;
 - q. **relative**, of a person, means a spouse, parent, sibling, child, grandparent or grandchild of the person;
 - r. **remuneration**:
 - i includes salary, allowance and other entitlements; and
 - ii does not include reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.
 - s. **senior employee** means a person who:
 - i makes, or participates in making, decisions that affect the whole, or a substantial part of the activities of the association; or
 - ii has the capacity to significantly affect the association's financial standing.
 - t. **signed** means agreed in writing;
 - u. **special resolution** means a resolution that is passed at a general meeting by the votes of at least 75% of the members who are present, eligible to vote and voting;
 - v. **status quo** means existing state of affairs or the current position. In regard to equal voting it means that the motion is defeated;
 - w. **surplus assets** means the assets after payment of the debts and liabilities remaining on a winding-up of the association and the costs, charges and expenses of the winding-up;
 - x. **written / in writing** means, unless the contrary intention appears, all forms of visible words, including printed, hard copy or electronic formats.
- 1.1.2. Words importing the singular include the plural where context requires or permits.

1.2. Name

- 1.2.1. The name of the association is Nigerian Community Association In Queensland Inc.

1.3. Associations Incorporation Act 1981

- 1.3.1. In this constitution, unless the context requires otherwise, an expression has, in a provision of this constitution that deals with a matter dealt with by a particular provision of the Act, the same meaning as in that provision of the Act.
- 1.3.2. The provision at section 47(1) of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* does not apply, meaning that the model rules created under the Act are expressly displaced by this constitution.

1.4. Interpretation

- 1.4.1. The management committee has authority to interpret the meaning of this constitution and any matter relating to the association on which the constitution is silent, but any interpretation must have regard to the Act.

2. Objects and powers

2.1. Objects

- 2.1.1. The objects of the association are to:
- a. foster, encourage, promote, support and manage social, cultural and educational activities that advance Nigerian culture;
 - b. promote Nigerian culture for the benefit, social comfort and advancement of the association, its members and visitors;
 - c. promote and foster unity among all Nigerians without discrimination and act as a support group for all members;
 - d. always act in a secular and non-partisan manner;
 - e. foster good relationships, mutual respect and tolerance between Nigerians, other Africans and the wider Australian community;
 - f. encourage all Nigerians to participate in and/or contribute to the task of nation building both in Nigeria and in Australia;
 - g. promote charitable purposes as may from time to time arise;
 - h. participate as a group in matters relating to Multicultural Affairs Queensland or similar organisations;
 - i. participate as a group in matters relating to the association and foster cordial relationships with other community organisations in Australia and worldwide;
 - j. serve as the parent body for all Nigerian sub-cultural and/or ethnic bodies;
 - k. do such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any or all of these objects.

2.2. Powers

- 2.2.1. The association has the powers of an individual.
- 2.2.2. The association may, for example:
- a. enter into contracts; and
 - b. acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of property; and
 - c. make charges for services and facilities it supplies; and

- d. do other things necessary or convenient to be done in carrying out its affairs.

3. Membership

3.1. Classes of membership

3.1.1. The membership of the association consists of the following classes:

- a. ordinary:
 - i ordinary members must be at least 18 years of age, support the objects of the association, pay all fees and levies due on time, and abide by the association's constitution, bylaws and policies;
 - ii ordinary members must be of Nigerian heritage, be a biological or adopted child of a Nigerian parent, or the spouse of any Nigerian who lives in Queensland;
 - iii ordinary members are entitled to vote at general meetings of the association;
 - iv ordinary members are eligible to hold management committee positions.
- b. honorary:
 - i honorary members must support the objects of the association and abide by the association's constitution, bylaws and policies;
 - ii honorary membership may be bestowed by the management committee upon any person who is a non-Nigerian who the management committee deems suitable;
 - iii honorary membership may be bestowed for a term determined by the management committee;
 - iv honorary members are not entitled to vote at general meetings of the association;
 - v honorary members are not eligible to hold management committee positions.
- c. life:
 - i life members must be at least 18 years of age, support the objects of the association and abide by the association's constitution, bylaws and policies;
 - ii life membership is open to any person who has rendered extraordinary and meritorious service to the association for an extended period;
 - iii any two members, who are ordinary or life members, may nominate an eligible member for life membership;
 - iv nominations for life membership must be in writing, signed by the members making the recommendation and received by the

secretary no less than 14 days prior to the annual general meeting;

- v on the management committee's approval of the recommendation, the nominee will be proposed for election as a life member at the next annual general meeting;
- vi life members must be elected by the passing of a resolution at a general meeting by the votes of at least 75% of the members who are present, eligible to vote and voting;
- vii life members are entitled to vote at general meetings of the association;
- viii life members are eligible to hold management committee positions.

3.1.2. The number of members in all classes of membership is unlimited.

3.1.3. A right, privilege or obligation which a person has by reason of being a member of the association is not capable of being transferred or transmitted from one person to another person.

3.1.4. Notwithstanding the membership rights and privileges listed in clause 3.1.1, any person who is a current employee of the association shall not be eligible to hold office as a management committee member.

3.2. Patrons

3.2.1. One or more patrons may be nominated by the management committee and appointed by the members present, eligible to vote and voting at an annual general meeting.

3.2.2. The term of office for a patron is three years.

3.2.3. A patron shall remain in office from the conclusion of the annual general meeting at which they were appointed until the third annual general meeting following their appointment, but are eligible upon nomination, and subject to clause 3.2.4, for re-election.

3.2.4. A patron may not serve more than three consecutive terms.

3.2.5. A patron is not entitled to vote at general meetings of the association and is not eligible for election to the management committee, unless they are also an ordinary member or life member.

3.3. Fees and levies

3.3.1. Life members and honorary members are not required to pay membership fees to the association.

3.3.2. The membership fees for ordinary members are:

- a. the amounts decided by the management committee; and
- b. payable when, and in the way, the management committee decides.

- 3.3.3. The management committee may waive or discount the membership fees payable by any member.
- 3.3.4. The management committee may at any time impose a levy upon all or any members in any amount and upon such payment terms as the management committee may think fit.
- 3.3.5. A member who has any membership fee, other fee or levy in arrears for a period of three months may have their membership immediately suspended or terminated.
- 3.3.6. A member who has their membership suspended or terminated under clause 3.3.5 continues to be liable to pay any unpaid membership fee, other fee or levy.

3.4. Application for membership

- 3.4.1. An application for membership must be:
 - a. in writing; and
 - b. in the form decided by the management committee; and
 - c. accompanied by any other documents or evidence of eligibility for membership, as determined by the management committee from time to time.

3.5. Admission and rejection of new members

- 3.5.1. The management committee must consider an application for membership at the next management committee meeting held after it receives:
 - a. the application for membership; and
 - b. the appropriate membership fees for the application.
- 3.5.2. The management committee must ensure that, as soon as practicable after the person applies to become a member of the association, and before the management committee considers the person's application, the person is advised:
 - a. whether or not the association has public liability insurance; and
 - b. if the association has public liability insurance, the amount of the insurance.
- 3.5.3. The management committee must decide at the meeting whether to accept or reject the application.
- 3.5.4. If a majority of the management committee members present, eligible to vote and voting at the meeting vote to accept the applicant as a member, the applicant must be accepted as a member in the class of membership applied for.
- 3.5.5. If the management committee decides to reject an application, the secretary must, as soon as practicable, give the applicant notice of the decision in a manner determined by the management committee,

provide clear reasoning for the rejection and refund any membership fees paid by the person.

- 3.5.6. An applicant whose application for membership has been rejected has no right of appeal against their rejection under this clause.

3.6. Membership renewal and re-joining

- 3.6.1. Existing ordinary members will be invited to renew their annual membership each year, in accordance with the timeframes and procedures set down by the management committee from time to time.
- 3.6.2. A member who has resigned from the association or otherwise forfeited their membership and later desires to re-join may be subject to the same process of admission to membership as any new member who has not previously been a member of the association.
- 3.6.3. If the management committee decides to reject a member's application to renew their membership, the secretary must, as soon as practicable, give the applicant notice of the decision in a manner determined by the management committee.
- 3.6.4. An existing member whose application for membership renewal has been rejected has the right of appeal against the rejection in accordance with clause 4.3.

3.7. Association registers

- 3.7.1. The management committee must keep a register of members of the association.
- 3.7.2. The register must include the following particulars for each member:
- a. the full name of the member;
 - b. the postal or residential address of the member;
 - c. contact details of the member;
 - d. the date of admission as a member;
 - e. the date of death or time of resignation of the member;
 - f. details about the termination or reinstatement of membership;
 - g. any other particulars the management committee or the members at a general meeting decide.
- 3.7.3. The register of members is open for inspection only by the secretary, the management committee and any other person approved by the management committee.
- 3.7.4. If the association holds a liquor licence and/or gaming licence, the secretary must ensure that suitable registers of visitors, guests and any clubs or associations with formal reciprocal rights are kept, in accordance with relevant liquor and gaming legislation.

3.8. Prohibition on use of information on register of members

- 3.8.1. A member of the association must not:
- a. use information obtained from the register of members of the association to contact, or send material to, another member of the association for the purpose of advertising for political, religious, charitable or commercial purposes; or
 - b. disclose information obtained from the register to someone else, knowing that the information is likely to be used to contact, or send material to, another member of the association for the purpose of advertising for political, religious, charitable or commercial purposes.

4. Resignation, discipline and appeals

4.1. Resignation of a member

- 4.1.1. A member may resign from the association by giving a written notice of resignation to the secretary.
- 4.1.2. The resignation takes effect at:
- a. the time the notice is received by the secretary; or
 - b. if a later time is stated in the notice, the later time.

4.2. Discipline

- 4.2.1. The management committee may take action to suspend or terminate a member's membership if it is determined that the member has:
- a. been convicted of an indictable offence; or
 - b. breached, failed, refused or neglected to comply with a provision of this constitution, the association's bylaws or any resolution or determination of the management committee or any duly authorised subcommittee; or
 - c. acted in a manner injurious or prejudicial to the character and interests of the association; or
 - d. brought themselves, the association or any other member into disrepute; or
 - e. has membership fees or any other fee in arrears for at least three months under clause 3.3.5.
- 4.2.2. If the management committee proposes to suspend or terminate a member's membership, the secretary must, within seven days after the decision, give the member written notice:
- a. setting out the proposed suspension or termination of membership by the management committee and the grounds on which it is based;

- b. stating that the member may address the management committee at a meeting to be held not earlier than seven days and not later than 28 days after the service of the notice;
 - c. stating that the member may bring a support person to that meeting;
 - d. stating the date, time and place of that meeting;
 - e. informing the member that the member may do either or both of the following:
 - i attend and speak at that meeting;
 - ii submit to the management committee at or before the date of that meeting written representations relating to the decision.
 - f. setting out the member's appeal rights.
- 4.2.3. Before the management committee suspends or terminates a member's membership, the management committee must:
- a. give the member a full and fair opportunity to make verbal representations at a meeting as mentioned in clause 4.2.2.b;
 - b. give due consideration to any written representations submitted to the management committee by the member at or before the meeting mentioned in clause 4.2.2.b.
- 4.2.4. If, after considering all representations made by the member, the management committee decides by resolution to suspend or terminate the membership, the secretary must, within seven days of the meeting mentioned in clause 4.2.2.b, give the member a written notice of the decision.
- 4.2.5. Upon the suspension or termination of their membership, a member shall immediately forfeit all rights, privileges and benefits associated with membership, including but not limited to, voting rights, access to member services and participation in association activities.
- 4.2.6. Clause 4.2.5 shall apply during any appeal process initiated by a member following the suspension or termination of their membership.
- 4.2.7. Nothing in this constitution shall prevent the management committee from immediately prohibiting a member's right to participate in association activities in circumstances considered by the management committee to warrant such immediate action, pending the process outlined in clauses 4.2.2 - 4.2.4.

4.3. Appeal against rejection, suspension or termination of membership

- 4.3.1. A person whose membership has been suspended or terminated, or whose application to renew their membership has been rejected, may give the secretary written notice of their intention to appeal against the decision.
- 4.3.2. A notice of intention to appeal must be received by the secretary within seven days after the person receives written notice of the decision.

- 4.3.3. Within seven days of the secretary receiving a notice of intention to appeal, the management committee shall appoint an appeals panel comprising three independent people, other than management committee members.

4.4. Appeals panel to decide appeal

- 4.4.1. The appeals panel must hold the appeal meeting within 28 days of the secretary receiving the notice of intention to appeal.
- 4.4.2. At the appeal meeting, the appellant must be given a full and fair opportunity to show why the membership should not be suspended or terminated, or why their application to renew their membership should not be rejected.
- 4.4.3. Also, the management committee must be given a full and fair opportunity to show why the membership should be suspended or terminated, or why the application to renew membership should be rejected.
- 4.4.4. An appeal must be decided by a majority vote of the appeals panel.
- 4.4.5. Where a decision of the management committee to suspend or terminate a member's membership is set aside by the appeals panel, the membership shall be reinstated to the member's former level of membership without payment of any additional fee.
- 4.4.6. Where a decision of the management committee to reject a person's application to renew their membership is set aside by the appeals panel, the membership renewal shall be granted subject to the payment of any fees due.

5. Grievances

5.1. Grievance procedure

- 5.1.1. This grievance procedure applies to disputes between:
 - a. a member and another member;
 - b. a member and the management committee; or
 - c. a member and the association.
- 5.1.2. The grievance procedure cannot be used by a person whose membership has been terminated.
- 5.1.3. A member (the aggrieved party) initiates the grievance procedure in relation to the dispute by giving a notice in writing of the dispute:
 - a. to the other party; and
 - b. if the other party is not the management committee, to the management committee.
- 5.1.4. If two or more members initiate a grievance procedure in relation to the same subject matter, the management committee may deal with the

disputes in a single process and the initiating members must choose one of their number (also the aggrieved party) to represent the members in the grievance procedure.

- 5.1.5. Subject to clause 5.2, the parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to resolve the dispute.
- 5.1.6. If the parties to the dispute cannot resolve the dispute within 14 days after the aggrieved party initiates the grievance procedure, the aggrieved party may, within a further 21 days, ask the association's secretary to refer the dispute to mediation.
- 5.1.7. Subject to clause 5.2, if the aggrieved party asks the association's secretary to refer the dispute to mediation under clause 5.1.6, the management committee must refer the dispute within 14 days after the request.

5.2. Grievance procedure not continued in particular circumstances

- 5.2.1. This section applies if:
 - a. a member initiates a grievance procedure in relation to a dispute and the association or association's management committee is the other party to the dispute; or
 - b. the aggrieved party asks the association's secretary to refer the dispute to mediation under clause 5.1.6.
- 5.2.2. The management committee does not have to act under clause 5.1.5 or 5.1.7 if:
 - a. the aggrieved party has, within 21 days before initiating the grievance procedure, behaved in a way that would give the management committee grounds for taking disciplinary action under this constitution against the aggrieved party in relation to the matter that is the subject of the grievance procedure; or
 - b. before the grievance procedure was initiated, a process had started to take action under this constitution against the aggrieved party or terminate the aggrieved party's membership, as provided for under this constitution, and the dispute relates to that process or to a matter relevant to that process; or
 - c. the dispute relates to an obligation under the *Liquor Act 1992* or any other State law to prevent the entry of the aggrieved party to, or to remove the aggrieved party from, premises used by the association, or to refuse to serve liquor to the aggrieved party at the premises; or
 - d. the dispute could reasonably be considered frivolous, vexatious, misconceived, or lacking in substance or the dispute relates to a matter that has already been subject of the grievance procedure.

5.3. Appointment of mediator

- 5.3.1. If a dispute under clause 5 is referred to mediation:

- a. the parties to the dispute must choose a mediator to conduct the mediation; or
 - b. if the parties are unable to agree on the appointment of a mediator within 14 days after the dispute is referred to mediation, the mediator must be:
 - i. for a dispute between a member and another member, a person appointed by the management committee; or
 - ii. for a dispute between a member and the management committee or the association, a person agreed between the parties, an accredited mediator or a mediator appointed by the director of a dispute resolution centre.
- 5.3.2. An accredited mediator may refuse to be the mediator, or the director of a dispute resolution centre may refuse to appoint a mediator, to mediate the dispute.
- 5.3.3. If clause 5.3.2 applies, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

5.4. Conduct of mediation

- 5.4.1. If a mediator is appointed under clause 5.3, the mediator must start the mediation as soon as possible after the appointment and try to finish the mediation within 28 days after the appointment.
- 5.4.2. The mediator:
- a. must give each party to the dispute an opportunity to be heard on the matter that is the subject of the dispute; and
 - b. must comply with natural justice; and
 - c. must not act as an adjudicator or arbitrator; and
 - d. during the mediation, may see the parties, with or without their representatives, together or separately.
- 5.4.3. The parties to the dispute must act reasonably and genuinely in the mediation and help the mediator to start and finish the mediation within the time required under clause 5.4.1.
- 5.4.4. The costs of the mediation, if any, are to be shared equally between the parties unless otherwise agreed.
- 5.4.5. If the mediator cannot resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

5.5. Representation for grievance procedure

- 5.5.1. A party to a dispute may appoint any person to act on behalf of the party in the grievance procedure.
- 5.5.2. For clause 5.5.1, a person is qualified to act on behalf of a party if the person:

- a. has sufficient knowledge of the matter that is the subject of the dispute to be able to represent the party effectively; and
 - b. is authorised to negotiate an agreement for the party.
- 5.5.3. If a party appoints a person under clause 5.5.1 to act on the party's behalf, the party must give written notice of the appointment to each of the following entities:
- a. the other party to the dispute;
 - b. the management committee;
 - c. if a mediator has been appointed before the party appoints the person, the mediator.

5.6. Electronic communication for grievance procedure

- 5.6.1. Any meeting or mediation session required under the grievance procedure may be conducted by electronic means if the parties to the dispute and, for a mediation, the mediator agrees.

6. The management committee, subcommittees and delegation

6.1. Membership of management committee

- 6.1.1. The management committee of the association comprises between seven and nine members including:
- a. president;
 - b. treasurer; and
 - c. between five and seven other members elected at a general meeting.
- 6.1.2. The management committee shall determine annually the number of other members to be elected at a general meeting.
- 6.1.3. In accordance with clause 10.1 and the Act, an eligible member may be elected to the management committee as secretary.
- 6.1.4. At the first management committee meeting following a general meeting at which members have been elected to the management committee, the management committee shall assign any offices to management committee members and it may determine.
- 6.1.5. The management committee will comprise of at least one member of each gender.
- 6.1.6. A management committee member must be ordinarily resident in Queensland.
- 6.1.7. A management committee member must be a member of the association.
- 6.1.8. A management committee member may only serve a maximum of two consecutive terms on the management committee. Any management

committee member who has served the maximum consecutive terms must retire from the management committee for at least two years before being eligible again to be elected or appointed to any position on the management committee.

6.2. Terms of office

- 6.2.1. Subject to clause 6.2.2, the term of office for management committee members is two years.
- 6.2.2. Management committee members shall remain in office from the conclusion of the annual general meeting at which they were elected until the second annual general meeting following their election, but are eligible, on nomination, for re-election.
- 6.2.3. The management committee shall have the power to determine the sequence of retirements for management committee members to ensure rotational terms, whereby approximately one half of the management committee members retire in each year.

6.3. Functions and duties of management committee

- 6.3.1. The management committee must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the association complies with its obligations under the Act and this constitution.
- 6.3.2. Subject to this constitution, the management committee has the general control and management of the administration of the affairs, property and funds of the association.
- 6.3.3. The management committee may exercise all the powers of the association except any powers that the Act or this constitution requires the association to exercise at a general meeting.
- 6.3.4. The management committee has the power to enforce the observance of all clauses in this constitution and any bylaws made by the management committee.
- 6.3.5. A management committee member must exercise their powers and discharge their duties in good faith, in the best interests of the association for proper purpose and with care and diligence.
- 6.3.6. A management committee member must not improperly use their position, or information obtained as a management committee member, to:
 - a. gain a benefit or material advantage; or
 - b. cause detriment to the association.
- 6.3.7. Management committee members have a duty to prevent insolvent trading.

6.4. Delegation

- 6.4.1. The management committee may delegate any of its powers and authorities, duties and functions to any person or to any subcommittee except:
 - a. the power to delegate; or
 - b. a function that is a duty imposed on the management committee by the Act or by any other law.
- 6.4.2. Despite any delegation under this clause, the management committee may continue to exercise all its functions, including any function that has been delegated and remains accountable for the exercise of those functions at all times.

6.5. Appointment of subcommittees

- 6.5.1. The management committee may create and dissolve any subcommittees considered appropriate by the management committee to help with the conduct of the association's operations.
- 6.5.2. Subcommittees shall have such membership, powers and duties as the management committee shall confer on them, or which the management committee shall delegate to them.
- 6.5.3. A subcommittee may meet and adjourn as it considers appropriate, or as requested by the management committee.
- 6.5.4. A member of a subcommittee who is not a management committee member is not entitled to vote at management committee meetings.
- 6.5.5. Subject to the management committee's absolute control and supervision, each subcommittee of the association may manage its own affairs but must make regular reports to the management committee, or otherwise as the management committee may require from time to time.
- 6.5.6. Each subcommittee must promptly and regularly produce its meeting minutes and records for inspection by or on behalf of the management committee.
- 6.5.7. A subcommittee of the association must in the exercise of those powers delegated to it, conform to any regulation or restriction that the management committee may impose upon it from time to time.
- 6.5.8. The president may be an ex-officio member of any subcommittee.

6.6. Acts not affected by defects or disqualifications

- 6.6.1. An act or omission performed by the management committee, a subcommittee or a person acting under the direction of the management committee is taken to have been validly performed.
- 6.6.2. Clause 6.6.1 applies even if the act or omission was performed when:

- a. there was a defect, informality or irregularity in the appointment of a management committee member, subcommittee member or person acting under the direction of the management committee; or
- b. there was an irregularity in the convening or conduct of any management committee meeting, subcommittee meeting or general meeting that was not discovered until after the conclusion of that meeting; or
- c. a management committee member, subcommittee member or person acting under the direction of the management committee was disqualified from being a member.

7. Election, appointment and vacancies on management committee

7.1. Electing the management committee

7.1.1. A management committee member may only be elected as follows:

- a. the secretary calls for nominations for management committee positions with sufficient notice before the general meeting at which the election is to be held;
- b. any two members of the association, who are eligible to vote at general meetings, may nominate another eligible member (the **candidate**) to serve as a management committee member;
- c. nominations must be:
 - i in writing; and
 - ii signed by the candidate and the members who nominated them; and
 - iii received by the secretary at least 14 days before the general meeting at which the election is to be held.
- d. a list of the candidates' names in alphabetical order, with the names of the members who nominated each candidate, must be open for inspection by members of the association for at least seven days immediately preceding the general meeting;
- e. if required by the management committee, balloting lists must be prepared containing the names of the candidates in order determined by lot;
- f. each member present and entitled to vote at the general meeting may vote for one candidate for each vacant position on the management committee. Any equality in voting is decided as follows:
 - i if there are two candidates for a vacant management committee position and both candidates receive an equal number of votes, voting is determined by lot;
 - ii if there are three or more candidates for a vacant management committee position and two or more candidates receive an equal highest number of votes, a second vote is conducted between only those candidates who received the equal highest number of

votes. In the event that following the second vote, two or more candidates receive an equal highest number of votes, voting is determined by lot.

- g. if there is only one candidate for a vacant management committee position, the candidate is declared elected if approved by a majority of members present, eligible to vote and voting. If the candidate is not approved, nominations for the position may be taken from the floor of the meeting and an election may be held in accordance with clause 7.1.1.f;
- h. if, at the start of the general meeting, there are no candidates nominated for any vacant management committee position, nominations for that position may be taken from the floor of the meeting and an election may be held in accordance with clause 7.1.1.f;
- i. if no candidate is elected to any vacant management committee position, a casual vacancy is deemed to have occurred in that position.

7.1.2. A person is eligible to be a management committee member only if the person:

- a. is at least 18 years of age; and
- b. is eligible to be a management committee member under the Act and this constitution; and
- c. has no membership fee, other fee or levy in arrears at the date of their nomination or appointment; and
- d. holds a current blue card or exemption card obtained under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* or agrees to obtain one immediately upon becoming a management committee member.

7.1.3. The management committee must ensure that, before a person becomes a management committee member, the person is advised:

- a. whether or not the association has public liability insurance; and
- b. if the association has public liability insurance, the amount of the insurance.

7.2. Resignation, removal or vacation of office of management committee member

7.2.1. A management committee member may resign from the management committee by giving written notice of resignation to the secretary.

7.2.2. The resignation takes effect at:

- a. the time the notice is received by the secretary; or
- b. if a later time is stated in the notice, the later time.

- 7.2.3. A management committee member may be removed from office at a general meeting of the association if a majority of the members present, eligible to vote and voting at the meeting vote in favour of removing the member.
- 7.2.4. Before a vote is taken about removing the management committee member from office, the management committee member and any other members must be given a full and fair opportunity to show why the management committee member should not be removed from office.
- 7.2.5. Also, members present must be given a full and fair opportunity to show why the management committee member should be removed from office.
- 7.2.6. A management committee member must vacate office if that person:
- a. dies; or
 - b. is no longer a member of the association; or
 - c. becomes disqualified from being a management committee member under this constitution or the Act; or
 - d. is determined by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal or the Supreme Court of Queensland to have impaired capacity, as defined by the *Powers of Attorney Act 1998* or the *Guardian and Administration Act 2000*; or
 - e. is convicted of an indictable offence or is made bankrupt; or
 - f. fails to disclose the nature of any material personal interest in a matter that relates to the affairs of the association; or
 - g. is absent from three consecutive management committee meetings without approval of the management committee; or
 - h. becomes an employee of the association; or
 - i. does not agree to undergo a criminal history check or is disqualified as a result of such a check, if the management committee requests the member to undergo a criminal history check; or
 - j. if the person is required to undergo a *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* check and:
 - i is not eligible to undergo the check; or
 - ii does not agree to undergo the check; or
 - iii is disqualified as a result of the check.
- 7.2.7. A management committee member has no right of appeal against their removal from office under clause 7.2.
- 7.2.8. Any management committee member who has their membership of the association suspended or terminated may not return to the office vacated by them for the remainder of the term for that position.

- 7.2.9. Clause 7.2.8 does not apply in the case of any decision of the management committee to suspend or terminate a member's membership, which is subsequently set aside by an appeals panel.

7.3. Vacancies on management committee

- 7.3.1. If a casual vacancy occurs on the management committee, the continuing members of the management committee may appoint another member of the association to fill the vacancy until the next annual general meeting.
- 7.3.2. The continuing members of the management committee may act despite a casual vacancy on the management committee, provided that:
- a. the positions of president and treasurer are not vacant; and
 - b. the number of management committee members is at least three.
- 7.3.3. If a casual vacancy occurs in the position of president or treasurer, the continuing members of the management committee may act only to:
- a. appoint another member of the association to fill the casual vacancy; or
 - b. call a general meeting of the association.
- 7.3.4. If the number of management committee members is less than three, the continuing members of the management committee may act only to:
- a. increase the number of management committee members to at least three; or
 - b. call a general meeting of the association.
- 7.3.5. If a casual vacancy occurs in the position of secretary, the continuing members of the management committee must ensure a secretary is appointed or elected within one month after the vacancy happens.

8. Meetings of the management committee

8.1. Management committee meetings

- 8.1.1. Subject to this clause, the management committee may meet and conduct its proceedings, as it considers appropriate, provided that the management committee must meet at least once every four months to exercise its functions.
- 8.1.2. The management committee must decide how a meeting is to be called.
- 8.1.3. Notice of a meeting is to be given in the way decided by the management committee.
- 8.1.4. The management committee may hold meetings or permit a management committee member to take part in its meetings by using any technology that allows members to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each participating member.

- 8.1.5. A management committee member who participates in the meeting as mentioned in clause 8.1.4 is taken to be present at the meeting.
- 8.1.6. Each management committee member present is entitled to one vote only.
- 8.1.7. A resolution arising at a management committee meeting is to be decided by a majority vote of management committee members present, eligible to vote and voting at the meeting and, if the votes are equal, the resolution is defeated.
- 8.1.8. The president is to preside as chairperson at a management committee meeting.
- 8.1.9. If there is no president or if the president is not present within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a management committee meeting, the management committee members may choose one of their number to preside as chairperson at the meeting.

8.2. Special meeting of management committee

- 8.2.1. If the secretary receives a written request signed by at least 33% of management committee members, the secretary must call a special meeting of the management committee by giving each management committee member notice of the meeting within 14 days after the secretary receives the request.
- 8.2.2. If the secretary is unable or unwilling to call the special meeting, the president must call the meeting.
- 8.2.3. A request for a special meeting must state:
 - a. why the special meeting is called; and
 - b. the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- 8.2.4. A notice of a special meeting must state:
 - a. the day, time and place of the meeting; and
 - b. the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- 8.2.5. Only the business listed on the notice of a special meeting of the management committee may be conducted at a special meeting of the management committee.
- 8.2.6. A special meeting of the management committee must be held within 14 days after notice of the meeting is given to the members of the management committee.

8.3. Minutes of management committee meetings

- 8.3.1. The secretary must ensure full and accurate minutes of all questions, matters, resolutions and other proceedings of each management committee meeting are entered in a minute book, which may be in electronic format.

- 8.3.2. To ensure the accuracy of the minutes, the minutes of each management committee meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next management committee meeting, verifying their accuracy.
- 8.3.3. Minutes of management committee meetings are available for inspection only by the secretary, the management committee and any other person approved by the management committee.

8.4. Quorum for, and adjournment of, management committee meeting

- 8.4.1. At a management committee meeting, more than 50% of the current management committee members form a quorum.
- 8.4.2. If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a special meeting of the management committee called upon the request of management committee members under clause 8.2.1, the meeting lapses.
- 8.4.3. If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a management committee meeting called other than upon the request of management committee members under clause 8.2.1:
 - a. the meeting is to be adjourned for at least one day; and
 - b. the members of the management committee who are present are to decide the day, time and place of the adjourned meeting.
- 8.4.4. If, at an adjourned meeting mentioned in clause 8.4.3, there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting, the meeting lapses.

8.5. Resolutions of management committee without meeting

- 8.5.1. A written resolution agreed in writing by a majority of the management committee members entitled to vote on the resolution is as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a management committee meeting that was properly called and held, provided that every management committee member has been given an opportunity to read and vote on the resolution.
- 8.5.2. Such a resolution may be validly transmitted and agreed in writing electronically.
- 8.5.3. A resolution mentioned in clause 8.5.1 may consist of several documents in like form, each agreed in writing by one or more members of the management committee.

8.6. Material personal interests

- 8.6.1. The secretary shall cause to be kept and updated from time to time a register of declared personal interests of management committee members.

- 8.6.2. A management committee member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a management committee meeting must:
- a. as soon as the member becomes aware of the interest, disclose the nature and extent of the interest to the management committee;
 - b. not be present while the matter is being considered at the management committee meeting;
 - c. not vote on the matter; and
 - d. disclose the nature and extent of the interest at the next general meeting of the association.
- 8.6.3. The interest must be recorded in the minutes of the management committee meeting at which the disclosure is made and also in the register of declared interests of management committee members.
- 8.6.4. Clause 8.6.2 does not apply to a material personal interest:
- a. that exists only because the member belongs to a class of person 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.
- 8.6.5. Clause 8.6.2 does not apply if the management committee, other than the members who have a material personal interest in the matter, decide the member who has a material personal interest in the matter may:
- a. be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; or
 - b. vote on the matter.
- 8.6.6. If the management committee decides under clause 8.6.5 that a management committee member who has a material personal interest in a matter may be present at a meeting while the matter is being considered, or may vote on the matter, the management committee must ensure that:
- a. the decision is recorded in the minutes of the management committee meeting and disclosed at the next general meeting of the association; and
 - b. details of the decision are given to a member of the association, if requested by the member.

9. Meetings of members

9.1. Annual general meetings

- 9.1.1. The association's annual general meeting must be held within six months after the end date of the association's reportable financial year.
- 9.1.2. Subject to the Act, the following business must be conducted at each annual general meeting of the association:

- a. presentation of a written report of the association's operations throughout the year;
- b. receiving and adopting the association's financial statement, and audit report, for the last reportable financial year;
- c. appointing an auditor or an accountant for the present financial year;
- d. advising members:
 - i of the association's public liability insurance; or
 - ii if the management committee has decided that there is no need to have public liability insurance, the reasons for this decision and that this decision means the association's assets would be at risk if there were a successful claim against the association.
- e. electing management committee members;
- f. appointing one or more patrons, if applicable;
- g. in accordance with clause 8.6.6, disclosure of the nature and extent of material personal interests of management committee members, if applicable;
- h. presentation of the details of any remuneration paid or other benefits given for the financial year to management committee members and any of their relatives; and to senior employees of the association and any of their relatives, as prescribed by the Act.

9.2. General meetings

- 9.2.1. The secretary must call a general meeting by giving each member of the association written notice of the meeting within 14 days after:
 - a. being directed to call the meeting by the management committee; or
 - b. being given a written request signed by at least 30 members of the association who, when the request is signed, are entitled to vote at general meetings.
- 9.2.2. A request mentioned in clause 9.2.1.b must state any proposed resolution to be considered at the general meeting.
- 9.2.3. A general meeting must be held within 28 days after the secretary is directed or requested to call the meeting as mentioned in clause 9.2.1.
- 9.2.4. Written notice of a general meeting must be provided to each member of the association at least 14 days before the date of the general meeting.
- 9.2.5. A notice of a general meeting must state the business to be conducted at the meeting and must specify the date, time and place for the meeting.
- 9.2.6. If the secretary is unable or unwilling to call a general meeting, the president must call the meeting.
- 9.2.7. If the secretary or president do not within 28 days from the date of receipt of the request mentioned in clause 9.2.1.b duly proceed to call

the meeting, the members who made the initial request (or any of them) may themselves call and arrange to hold the meeting.

- 9.2.8. Any meeting called by the members under clause 9.2.7 must be called in the same manner as that in which meetings are called by the management committee, and must be held not later than three months from the date of receipt of the request mentioned in clause 9.2.1.b.
- 9.2.9. All reasonable expenses of convening and conducting such a meeting shall be borne by the association.

9.3. Quorum for, and adjournment of, general meeting

- 9.3.1. The quorum for any general meeting is at least 20 members of the association who are entitled to vote at general meetings.
- 9.3.2. No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless there is a quorum of members.
- 9.3.3. If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a general meeting called upon the request of members of the association under clause 9.2.1.b, the meeting lapses.
- 9.3.4. If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a general meeting called other than upon the request of members of the association under clause 9.2.1.b:
 - a. the meeting is to be adjourned for at least seven days; and
 - b. the management committee is to decide the day, time and place of the adjourned meeting.
- 9.3.5. If at the adjourned meeting under clause 9.3.4 a quorum is not present within 30 minutes from the appointed time for the meeting, the members who are present and entitled to vote will be deemed to be the quorum and may transact the business for which the meeting was called.
- 9.3.6. The chairperson may, with the consent of any meeting at which there is a quorum, and must if directed by the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place.
- 9.3.7. No business will be transacted at any adjourned general meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- 9.3.8. A resolution passed at any adjourned meeting will for all purposes be treated as having been passed on the date when it was in fact passed and will not be deemed to have been passed on any earlier date.
- 9.3.9. When a meeting is adjourned, a new notice of the adjourned meeting is required only if the meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more.

9.4. Procedure at general meeting

- 9.4.1. An eligible voting member may take part and vote in a general meeting in person or by using any technology as approved by the management

committee, that allows members to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each participating member.

- 9.4.2. A member who participates in a meeting as mentioned in clause 9.4.1 is taken to be present at the meeting.
- 9.4.3. At each general meeting:
 - a. the president is to preside as chairperson; or
 - b. the eligible voting members present may choose another person to preside as chairperson; and
 - c. the chairperson must conduct the meeting in a proper and orderly way.
- 9.4.4. The eligible voting members present at a general meeting may appoint, by a majority vote, an individual who is not a member of the association to chair the general meeting.

9.5. Voting at general meeting

- 9.5.1. At a general meeting, each question, matter or resolution, other than a special resolution, must be decided by a majority vote of the eligible voting members who participate in the vote for that question, matter or resolution.
- 9.5.2. At a general meeting, a special resolution must be decided by at least 75% of the eligible voting members present and voting.
- 9.5.3. Each member present and entitled to vote is entitled to one vote only and, if the votes are equal, the resolution is defeated.
- 9.5.4. A member is not entitled to vote at a general meeting if the member has any membership fee, other fee or levy in arrears at the date of the meeting.
- 9.5.5. A challenge to a member's right to vote at a general meeting:
 - a. may only be made at the meeting; and
 - b. must be determined by the chairperson, whose decision is final.
- 9.5.6. The method of voting in a general meeting is to be decided by the management committee. However, if at least 20% of the members present demand a secret ballot, voting in person at the general meeting must be by secret ballot.
- 9.5.7. If a secret ballot is held, the chairperson must appoint two members to conduct the secret ballot in the way the chairperson decides.
- 9.5.8. The result of a vote as declared by the chairperson is taken to be a resolution of the meeting at which the vote was held. Neither the chairperson nor the minutes need to state the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour or against.

9.6. Proxies

- 9.6.1. The association does not allow proxy voting.

9.7. Minutes of general meetings

- 9.7.1. The secretary must ensure full and accurate minutes of all questions, matters, resolutions and other proceedings of each general meeting are entered in a minute book, which may be in electronic format.
- 9.7.2. To ensure the accuracy of the minutes:
- a. the minutes of each annual general meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next meeting of the association that is a general meeting or annual general meeting, verifying their accuracy; and
 - b. the minutes of each general meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next general meeting, verifying their accuracy.
- 9.7.3. If asked by a member of the association, the secretary must, within 28 days after the request is made:
- a. make the minutes for a particular general meeting available for inspection by the member at a mutually agreed time and place; and
 - b. give the member a copy of the minutes of the meeting.
- 9.7.4. The association may require the member to pay the reasonable costs of providing copies of the minutes.

10. Secretary

10.1. Appointment or election of secretary

- 10.1.1. The secretary must be an adult residing in Queensland, or in another state but not more than 65km from the Queensland border, who is:
- a. an eligible member of the association elected as secretary by the members at a general meeting; or
 - b. any of the following people appointed by the management committee as secretary:
 - i a member of the association's management committee;
 - ii another member of the association;
 - iii another person.
- 10.1.2. If a vacancy occurs in the office of secretary, the members of the management committee must ensure a secretary is appointed or elected within one month after the vacancy occurs.
- 10.1.3. If the management committee appoints a person mentioned in clause 10.1.1.b.ii as secretary, other than to fill a casual vacancy on the management committee, the person does not become a management

committee member and is ineligible to vote at management committee meetings.

- 10.1.4. However, if the management committee appoints a person mentioned in clause 10.1.1.b.ii as secretary to fill a casual vacancy on the management committee, the person becomes a management committee member and is eligible to vote at management committee meetings.
- 10.1.5. If the management committee appoints a person mentioned in clause 10.1.1.b.iii as secretary, the person does not become a management committee member and is ineligible to vote at management committee meetings.
- 10.1.6. In accordance with clause 3.1.4, a person who has been elected or appointed as secretary and is also a current employee of the association does not become a management committee member and is not eligible to vote at management committee meetings.

10.2. Removal of secretary

- 10.2.1. A secretary who has been appointed by the management committee may at any time be removed by the management committee.
- 10.2.2. If the management committee removes a secretary who is a person mentioned in clause 10.1.1.b.i, the person remains a management committee member.
- 10.2.3. If the management committee removes a secretary who is a person mentioned in clause 10.1.1.b.ii and who has been appointed to a casual vacancy on the management committee under clause 10.1.4, the person does not remain a management committee member.

10.3. Functions of secretary

- 10.3.1. The secretary's functions include, without limitation:
 - a. calling meetings of the association, including preparing notices of a meeting and of the business to be conducted at the meeting in consultation with the president of the association; and
 - b. keeping minutes of each meeting; and
 - c. keeping copies of all correspondence and other documents relating to the association; and
 - d. maintaining the register of members of the association.

11. Finance

11.1. Funds and accounts

- 11.1.1. The funds of the association must be kept in one or more accounts in the name of the association and in a financial institution decided by the management committee.
- 11.1.2. Records and accounts must be kept in the English language showing full and accurate particulars of the financial affairs of the association.

- 11.1.3. All amounts must be deposited in a financial institution account within three business days of receipt.
- 11.1.4. A payment by the association of \$100 or more must be made by electronic funds transfer.
- 11.1.5. Any electronic funds transfer must be signed or approved by the president and any of the following:
 - a. the secretary;
 - b. the treasurer;
 - c. any other person who has been authorised by the management committee to approve electronic funds transfers by the association.
- 11.1.6. A petty cash account and credit or debit card accounts may be kept on the imprest system, and the management committee must decide the amount of funds to be kept in any such accounts.
- 11.1.7. Any credit or debit card mentioned in clause 11.1.6 may be used only for purchases and may not be used for cash withdrawals.
- 11.1.8. All expenditure must be approved or ratified at a management committee meeting.

11.2. Annual financial statement

- 11.2.1. On behalf of the management committee, the treasurer must, as soon as practicable after the end date of each financial year, ensure a financial statement for its last reportable financial year is prepared.
- 11.2.2. The management committee must ensure that the association's financial statement is audited by an auditor or an accountant and presented to the annual general meeting for adoption.

11.3. Not-for-profit

- 11.3.1. The income and property of the association must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the association as set out in this constitution and no portion thereof is to be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to or among the members of the association, provided that nothing herein prevents the payment in good faith of:
 - a. remuneration of any person in return for services actually rendered to the association; or
 - b. repayment for out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the association; or
 - c. payment for sale or hire of goods or payment of rent for premises let to the association; or
 - d. interest to any member in respect of money advanced by that member to the association or otherwise owing by the association to

the member, provided that the rate of interest is not more than the current rate being charged for overdrawn accounts on money lent (regardless of the term of the loan) by:

- i the financial institution of the association; or
- ii if there is more than one financial institution of the association, the financial institution nominated by the management committee.

11.3.2. The association precludes the payment to an officer or employee of the association of an amount by way of commission or allowance calculated by reference to the quantity of liquor sold or supplied by the association or the receipts of the association for such liquor.

11.4. Financial year

11.4.1. The association's financial year will begin on 1 July each year and end on 30 June in the following year.

12. Documents and legal

12.1. Documents

12.1.1. The management committee must ensure the safe custody of books, documents, instruments of title and securities of the association.

12.2. Notices

12.2.1. A written notice may be given by the association to any member either personally, electronically or by sending it by post to the member's last address notified in writing to the association.

12.2.2. Any notice period referred to in this constitution shall include the day on which a notice is given.

12.2.3. Where a notice is sent by post:

- a. service of the notice is effected by properly addressing, pre-paying and posting a letter or packet containing the notice; and
- b. unless the contrary is proved, service will be taken to have been effected at the time at which the letter or packet would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

12.3. Common seal and execution of documents

12.3.1. Subject to the Act, the association may have a common seal.

12.3.2. If the association has a common seal, the seal must be:

- a. kept securely by the management committee; and
- b. used only under the authority of the management committee.

12.3.3. Each instrument to which the seal is attached must be signed by the president and the secretary.

- 12.3.4. If the association executes a document without using a common seal, the document must be signed by the president and the secretary.

12.4. Alteration of constitution

- 12.4.1. Subject to the Act, this constitution may be amended, repealed or added to by a special resolution carried at a general meeting.
- 12.4.2. However, an amendment, repeal or addition is valid only if it is registered by the chief executive of the relevant government department from time to time having responsibility for supervision of the provisions of the Act.

12.5. Bylaws

- 12.5.1. The management committee may make, amend or repeal bylaws, consistent with this constitution, for the internal management of the association.
- 12.5.2. A bylaw may be set aside by a majority vote of members at a general meeting of the association.

12.6. Indemnity

- 12.6.1. The association shall indemnify its secretary, management committee members, employees and members against all damages and losses (including legal costs) for which any such person may become liable to any third party in consequence of any act or omission done in lawfully and for the purpose of exercising the association's functions under the Act.
- 12.6.2. Indemnity under clause 12.6.1 shall not apply to any loss or damage resulting from the wilful misconduct of the person.

12.7. Insurance

- 12.7.1. The association may pay, whether directly or through an interposed entity, a premium for a contract insuring a secretary, management committee member or employee against liability that the person incurs as an officer of the association including a liability for legal costs.

13. Winding up

13.1. Distribution of surplus assets

- 13.1.1. This clause applies if the association:
- a. is wound-up under part 10 of the Act; and
 - b. has surplus assets.
- 13.1.2. The surplus assets must not be distributed among the members of the association.
- 13.1.3. If the association is not registered as a charity at the time of winding up, the surplus assets must be given to one or more other entities:

- a. having objects similar to the association's objects; and
 - b. the rules of which prohibit the distribution of the entity's income and assets to its members.
- 13.1.4. If the association is registered as a charity at the time of winding up, the surplus assets must be given to one or more other charities:
- a. having objects similar to the association's objects; and
 - b. the rules of which prohibit the distribution of the entity's income and assets to its members.

13.2. Liability

- 13.2.1. A secretary, management committee member, employee or member of the association is not personally liable 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, beyond:
- a. the property of the association in the person's possession; and
 - b. the amount, if any, unpaid by the person in respect of membership of the association.