

# Constitution

**The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.**  
(ABN 55 584 949 677) (A 0004857F)

Adopted on [TBC]

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# Constitution

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# Constitution

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## 1 Preliminary

### 1.1 Name

- (a) The name of the association is “The Country Women’s Association of Victoria Inc.”.
- (b) The registration number of the Association is A0004857F.

### 1.2 Charitable purpose

The Association may only pursue charitable purposes associated with its Purposes, and must do so predominantly in Australia.

### 1.3 Principal purpose

The principal purpose of the Association is to provide direct benevolent assistance to disadvantaged and vulnerable women, children and families in need throughout metropolitan, rural and remote settings in Victoria through:

- (a) volunteer community service;
- (b) the establishment and management of community support networks; and
- (c) the provision of financial aid or emergency funding.

### 1.4 Further purposes

In particular, and without limiting the principal purpose as above in clause 1.2, the purposes of the Association include to:

- (a) through community service, support women, children and their families, especially those most disadvantaged and vulnerable and provide networks of support within communities for women, children and their families;
- (b) deliver programs to improve the health, wellbeing and welfare of women, children and their families, especially those most disadvantaged and vulnerable; and
- (c) raise and distribute emergency funding to those most at risk and vulnerable in all settings, especially those in rural and remote settings (and in certain circumstances those overseas).

### 1.5 Additional purposes

Incidental and ancillary purposes to the principal purpose of the Association include:

- (a) to promote friendship and a network of support amongst all members of the Association;
- (b) support communities, especially those in rural and remote settings in Victoria to be sustainable;
- (c) advocate for the sustainable development of community relationships and the protection of the communities and the environment;

- (d) enhance educational opportunities for women and children; including through the provision of financial scholarships; and
- (e) raise funding for other organisation with aligned values which provide services and care to vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals;

throughout the State of Victoria, and bordering towns.

## 1.6 Financial year

The financial year of the Association is each period of 12 months ending on 31 December.

## 1.7 Definitions

In these Rules:

**Act** means the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* and includes any regulations made under that Act.

**Annual Subscription** has the meaning given in Rule 3.11.

**Approved Institution** means a fund, authority of institution which falls within the description of an item in any of the tables in Subdivision 30-B of the Tax Act, which has been established for charitable purposes, and which is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under or for the purposes of the Tax Act.

**Associate Member** has the meaning given under Rule 3.6.

**Association** means The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.

**Board** means the body having governance of the business of the Association constituted in accordance with Rule 6.1.

**Board Officer** has the meaning given in Rule 6.1.

**Branch** is a number of members managing affairs, subject to these Rules.

**Branch Delegate** has the meaning given in Rule 8.3(e).

**Chairperson** of meeting means:

- (a) in respect of a meeting of the Board, the State President (or, in her absence, the following order of precedence, the Deputy State President, or a member of the Board elected by the other members present);
- (b) in respect of a meeting of the State Council, the State President (or, in her absence, in the following order of precedence, the Deputy State President, or a Member of Honour);
- (c) in respect of a general meeting of the Association, the State President (or, in her absence, in the following order of precedence, the Deputy State President or a Member of Honour);
- (d) in respect of a Group meeting, the Group President (or, in her absence, a past Group President); and
- (e) in respect of a Branch meeting, the Branch President (or, in her absence, in the following order of precedence, a past Branch President, or a member elected by the other members present).

**Committee Chairmen** means those persons elected as chairpersons of those committees established under Rule 7.2 in accordance with Association policy, published from time to time.

**Companion Members** has the meaning given under Rule 3.6(b).

**Deputy State President** is the person elected to the office of Deputy State President in accordance with Part 10 of these Rules.

**Disciplinary Appeal Meeting** means a meeting of the Voting Members convened under Rule 4.6.

**Disciplinary Meeting** means a meeting convened in accordance with Rule 4 for the purposes of Rule 4.4.

**Disciplinary Subcommittee** has the meaning given under Rule 4.2.

**Executive Director** means the person who is employed with this title by the Association.

**Financial Year** means the 12 month period specified in Rule 1.6.

**General Meeting** includes a special meeting.

**Group** means a number of Branches, managing affairs within their own boundaries subject to these Rules.

**Head Office** means the Head Office of the Association at 3 Lansell Road, Toorak, Victoria, 3142.

**Junior Members** has the meaning given under Rule 3.6(a).

**Life Member** has the meaning given under Rule 3.4.

**member** means a member of the Association in accordance with Rule 4.

**Member of Honour** has the meaning given under Rule 3.3.

**Payment Date** has the meaning given in Rule 3.11.

**Registrar** means the Registrar of Incorporated Associations under the Act.

**resolution** means a motion that requires members consideration and voting in relation to the position to be adopted by the Association.

**Rules** means this Constitution.

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

**State Conference** means a meeting of Branch Delegates and members.

**State Council** means the body of elected and appointed members that set the policy and procedures of the Association.

**State President** is the person elected to the office of State President in accordance with Part 10 of these Rules.

**State Secretary** is the person elected to the office of State Secretary in accordance with Part 10 of these Rules.

**State Treasurer** is the person is elected to the office of State Treasurer in accordance with Part 10 of these Rules.

**Tax Act** means the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 (Cwlth) or the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cwlth), as the context requires.

**Voting Member** means a person entitled to vote in accordance with Rule 3.14.

## 1.8 Interpretation

Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation.

Unless the contrary intention appears, in this document:

- (a) labels used for definitions are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation;
- (b) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (c) a reference to a document includes any agreement or other legally enforceable arrangement created by it (whether the document is in the form of an agreement, deed or otherwise);
- (d) a reference to a document also includes any variation, replacement or novation of it;
- (e) the meaning of general words is not limited by specific examples introduced by “including”, “for example”, “such as” or similar expressions;
- (f) a reference to “**person**” includes an individual, a body corporate, a partnership, a joint venture, an unincorporated association and an authority or any other entity or organisation;
- (g) a reference to particular person includes the person’s executors, administrators, successors, substitutes (including person taking by novation) and assigns;
- (h) a reference to a time of day is a reference to the time of day in Melbourne, Australia;
- (i) a reference to dollars, \$ or A\$ is a reference to the currency of Australia;
- (j) a reference to “**law**” includes common law, principles of equity and legislation (including regulations);
- (k) a reference to any legislation includes regulations under it and any consolidations, amendments, re-enactments or replacements of any of them;
- (l) a reference to “**regulations**” includes instruments of a legislative character under legislation (such as regulations, Rules, by-laws, ordinances and proclamations);
- (m) a reference to a group of persona is a reference to any 2 of more of them jointly and to each of them individually;
- (n) a reference to anything (including an amount) is a reference to the whole and each part of it;
- (o) a period of time starting from a given day or the day of an act or event, is to be calculated exclusive of that day; and



- (p) if a party must do something under this document on or by a given day and it is done after 5:00pm on that day, it is taken to be done on the next day.

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## **2 Powers of the Association**

### **2.1 Powers of the Association**

Subject to the Act, the Association has power to do all things incidental or conducive to achieve its purposes.

### **2.2 Specific powers**

Without limiting Rule 2.1, 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 be 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.

### **2.3 Not for profit organisation**

- (a) The Association must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.
- (b) Rule 2.3(a) does not prevent the Association from paying a member:
  - (i) reimbursement for expenses properly incurred by the members; or
  - (ii) for goods and services provided by the member,if this is done in good faith on terms no more favourable than if the member was not a member.

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## **3 Members**

### **3.1 Minimum number of members**

The Association must have at least 6 members.

### **3.2 Eligibility to be a member**

- (a) Any female residing in the State of Victoria, or bordering towns, who wishes to become a member of the Association, supports the purposes of the Association, and applies in accordance with Rule 3.8, is eligible for membership.

- (b) No member of the Association shall be a paid employee of the Association.

### **3.3 Members of Honour**

- (a) A Branch may, by a simple majority vote, nominate a member to be a Member of Honour. If a Branch so resolves to nominate a member to be a Member of Honour it must advise the State Secretary in writing as soon as possible thereafter.
- (b) Each nomination must then be approved by not less than 85% of the Voting Members present (whether in person or by proxy) at the next scheduled general meeting of State Council.
- (c) Each nomination approved by State Council will then be voted on by all the Voting Members of the Association at the next scheduled general meeting of the Association.
- (d) Each nomination must then be approved by not less than 85% of the Voting Members present at the general meeting of the Association (whether in person or by proxy).

### **3.4 Life Members**

- (a) A nomination of a member may be made to any Branch or Group by any other member of that Branch or Group.
- (b) Any Group or Branch may approve a nomination for a member to become a Life Member.

### **3.5 Criteria for Life Members or Members of Honour**

The State Council may by resolution approve the criteria, and nomination requirement, for Life Membership or Members of Honour from time to time. Life Members and Members of Honour have the same rights under these Rules as members unless otherwise provided.

### **3.6 Classes of Associate Members**

Subject to these Rules, there shall be such classes of Associate Members as the Board determines from time to time, including:

- (a) Junior Members; and
- (b) Companion Members.

The Board shall determine from time to time the rights attached to each class of Associate Membership other than as set out in these Rules. The Board must publish the rights of each such class on the Association's website. An Associate Member may not vote at general meetings of the Association or any other meeting of a Branch or Group, unless the relevant Branch or Group so determine.

### **3.7 Commencement of Membership**

Persons who make an application in accordance with Rule 3.8 to become a member of the Association will be deemed a member of the Association once they have paid the applicable Annual Subscription (or the relevant proportion of it notified to them on application), unless notified by the Secretary, by order of the Board, within three months of receipt of that fee that their application has been

rejected. The Board may reject an application for membership in its absolute discretion.

### **3.8 Application for Membership**

- (a) To apply to become a member of the Association, a person must submit an application (which may be electronic or written in a Branch membership book) and pay the applicable Annual Subscription amount (or pro rata portion thereof in accordance with Rule 3.12 as applicable).
- (b) By completing an application, the applicant agrees to be bound by these Rules and any other rules, by-laws, policies and procedures, or other standards prescribed by the Board or State Council, from time to time.
- (c) The Board may prescribe the contents/form of an application from time to time.

### **3.9 Consideration of application**

Subject to Rule 3.7, all applications that:

- (a) are received from an applicant which satisfies the requirements of Rule 3.8; and
  - (b) the applicants satisfy the eligibility criteria set out in Rule 3.2
- are accepted for membership.

### **3.10 New membership**

For all non-electronic applications for membership, within 28 days of receipt of an application for membership in accordance with Rule 3.8, the Branch Secretary of the Branch to which the applicant applied must:

- (a) enter the name and address of the new member, and the date of becoming a member, in the register of members maintained by that Branch; and
- (b) send to the State Secretary:
  - (i) the details described in Rule 3.10(a); and
  - (ii) the Annual Subscription amount (or relevant portion thereof).

### **3.11 Annual Subscription**

The Board must determine:

- (a) the amount of the Annual Subscription (if any) for the Association for the following financial year; and
- (b) the due date for the payment of the Annual Subscription ("**Payment Date**").

If the increase in the Annual Subscription exceeds 10% of the amount of the Annual Subscription from the previous financial year, then the increase must be referred to the annual general meeting of the Association to be approved by the members as a general resolution.

The Annual Subscription includes the cost of a subscription to the magazine produced by the Association and associated delivery costs (which costs cannot be deducted from the amount of the Annual Subscription payable by any given member).

If the Board does not determine the Annual Subscription or payment date in respect of a Financial Year in accordance with Rule 3.11(a) and (b), then:

- (c) the Annual Subscription for that financial year shall be an amount equal to the Annual Subscription in the previous financial year plus \$1.50 or such lesser amount as the Board approves from time to time; and
- (d) the Payment Date for that financial year shall be the same Payment Date as in the previous financial year.

The Board may also determine that a lower Annual Subscription, or no Annual Subscription, is payable by Associate Members or other classes of members.

### **3.12 Prorata Annual Subscription**

- (a) If a person applies to become a new member more than 3 months after the Payment Date, a prorata Annual Subscription is payable assessed on a quarterly basis having regard to the balance of the membership year remaining.
- (b) The Board may publish a policy in relation to the calculation of prorata Annual Subscription in accordance with this Rule from time to time.

### **3.13 Failure to pay Annual Subscription**

The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the Annual Subscription amount within 2 months of the Payment Date are suspended until the Annual Subscription in respect of that financial year is paid by the relevant member.

### **3.14 Entitlement to vote at general meetings of the Association**

A member is entitled to vote at general meetings of the Association (a "Voting Member") if:

- (a) the member is an ordinary member, Life Member or Member of Honour;
- (b) the Branch or Association have received the member's payment of her Annual Subscription in respect of that current financial year within 2 months of the Payment Date;
- (c) the person has been a member for at least 3 months; and
- (d) the member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason.

### **3.15 General rights of Voting Members**

Voting Members have the following general rights:

- (a) to receive notice of general meetings of the Association in the manner and time prescribed by these Rules;
- (b) to receive notice of any proposed special resolutions to be determined at a special general meeting of the Association in the manner and time prescribed by these Rules;

- (c) to submit a resolution for consideration at a general meeting of the Association;
- (d) to attend and be heard at general meeting of the Associations; and
- (e) to inspect on request and free of charge:
  - (i) the register of members of the Association;
  - (ii) the minutes of general meetings of the Association;
  - (iii) the minutes of Board meetings; and
  - (iv) the financial records, books, securities, and any other relevant document of the Association.

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.

### **3.16 Rights in respect of property**

Members are not entitled to any right, title or interest (whether legal or equitable) in the property of the Association.

### **3.17 Entitlement to vote at Branch meetings**

All Voting Members of a Branch may vote at a Branch meeting.

### **3.18 Entitlement to vote at Group meetings**

A member is entitled to vote at a Group meeting if that member:

- (a) is a Voting Member; and
- (b) has been validly appointed as a Branch Delegate, in accordance with Rule 8.3(e).

### **3.19 Entitlement to vote at State Conferences**

A member is entitled to vote at a State Conference if that member:

- (a) is a Voting Member; and either
  - (i) has been validly appointed as a Branch Delegate;
  - (ii) is a member of State Council; or
  - (iii) is a Board Officer.

### **3.20 Ceasing membership**

- (a) The membership of a person ceases on resignation, expulsion in accordance with these Rules, or death.
- (b) If a person ceases to be a member of the Association then, as soon as practicable (but in any event within 14 days of the person ceasing to be member), the Branch Secretary must:

- (i) enter the date the person ceased to be a member in the register of members maintained by that Branch; and
  - (ii) notify the Head Office or State Secretary of the date that the person has ceased to be a member.
- (c) The Head Office or the State Secretary must arrange to enter the date that the person ceased to be a member in the register of members maintained by the Association.

### **3.21 Resigning as a member**

A member may resign by notice in writing given to the Association.

A member is taken to have resigned if:

- (a) the member's Annual Subscription is not paid within 2 months of the Payment Date (unless the Board otherwise determines); or
- (b) where no Annual Subscription is payable by that member:
  - (i) the Branch Secretary has made a written request to the member to confirm that she wishes to remain a member; and
  - (ii) the member has not, within 3 months after delivery of that request, confirmed in writing that she wishes to remain a member.

### **3.22 Register of members**

The State Secretary must keep and maintain a register of members that includes:

- (a) for each current member:
  - (i) the member's name;
  - (ii) the address of notice last given by the member;
  - (iii) the telephone contact for the member;
  - (iv) the member's email address;
  - (v) the date of becoming a member;
  - (vi) the class of member;
  - (vii) the Branch and/or Group of the member; and
  - (viii) any other information determined by the Board; and
- (b) for each former member, the date of ceasing to be a member.

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## **4 Disciplinary action**

### **4.1 Grounds for taking disciplinary action**

The Association may take disciplinary action against a member in accordance with this Part if the Board determines that the member:

- (a) has failed to comply with these Rules;
- (b) refuses to support the purposes of the Association; or
- (c) has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Association.

#### **4.2 Disciplinary subcommittee**

If the Board is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a member, the Board must appoint a disciplinary subcommittee to hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the member (the “**Disciplinary Subcommittee**”).

#### **4.3 Members of Disciplinary Subcommittee**

The members of the Disciplinary Subcommittee:

- (a) may be members of the Board; or
- (b) an independent mediator appointed by the Board.

#### **4.4 Notice to member**

Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the State 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 Subcommittee intends to consider the disciplinary action (the “**Disciplinary Meeting**”);
- (d) advising the member that she may do one or both of the following:
  - (i) attend the Disciplinary Meeting and address the Disciplinary Subcommittee at that meeting; and
  - (ii) give a written statement to the Disciplinary Subcommittee at any time before the Disciplinary Meeting; and
- (e) setting out the member's appeal rights under Rule 4.6.

The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days, and not later than 14 days, before the Disciplinary Meeting is held.

#### **4.5 Decision of Disciplinary Subcommittee**

At the Disciplinary Meeting, the Disciplinary Subcommittee must:

- (a) give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
- (b) consider any written statement submitted by the member.

After conducting the Disciplinary Meeting, the Disciplinary Subcommittee may decide to:

- (c) take no further action against the member;

- (d) reprimand the member;
- (e) suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period; or
- (f) expel the member from the Association.

The suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the Disciplinary Subcommittee under this Rule takes effect immediately after the vote is passed.

The member must be informed of the decision as soon as possible.

#### **4.6 Appeal rights**

- (a) A person whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the Association under Rule 4.5 may give notice to the effect that she wishes to appeal against the suspension or expulsion to the State President to the State Council.
- (b) The notice must be in writing and given to the State President within 14 days after the decision to suspend or expel the person is communicated to the person.
- (c) If a person has given notice under subrule (b), a Disciplinary Appeal Meeting must be convened by the Board as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 28 days after the notice is received.
- (d) Notice of the Disciplinary Appeal Meeting must be given to each Voting Member of State Council as soon as practicable and must:
  - (i) specify the date, time and place of the meeting;
  - (ii) the name of the person against whom the disciplinary action has been taken;
  - (iii) the grounds for taking that action; and
  - (iv) that at the Disciplinary Appeal Meeting of the State Council the Voting Members present must vote on whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.

#### **4.7 Conduct of Disciplinary Appeal Meeting**

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.

#### **4.8 Voting at the Disciplinary Appeal Meeting**

- (a) The Voting Members of State Council present at the Disciplinary Appeal Meeting must vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.



- (b) A Voting Member of State Council may not vote by proxy at the Disciplinary Appeal Meeting.
- (c) The decision is upheld if not less than three quarters of the Voting Members of State Council present and voting at the Disciplinary Appeal Meeting vote in favour of the decision.

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## **5 Powers of the Board**

### **5.1 Role and powers**

- (a) The business of the Association must be managed by or under the direction of a Board.
- (b) 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.
- (c) The Board may:
  - (i) appoint, monitor the performance of, and remove the Executive Director; and
  - (ii) establish subcommittees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate.
- (d) Without limiting any other paragraph of this Rule 5.1, the Board may approve the use of the logo of the Association by a third party.
- (e) The Association may execute a contract or other document if the contract or document is signed by either:
  - (i) the State President and State Treasurer, or
  - (ii) by another person who is authorised by the Board to execute documents on behalf of the Association.

### **5.2 Delegation**

- (a) The Board may delegate to a member of the Board, a subcommittee or staff, any of its powers and functions other than:
  - (i) this power of delegation; or
  - (ii) a duty imposed on the Board by the Act or any other law.
- (b) The delegation must be in writing and may be subject to the conditions and limitations the Board considers appropriate.
- (c) The powers which are delegated in accordance with subrule (a) must be exercised in accordance with any directions given by the Board.
- (d) The Board may, in writing, revoke a delegation wholly or in part.

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## 6 Composition and proceedings of the Board

### 6.1 Composition of the Board

The Board shall consist of:

- (a) the State President, who shall also fulfil the office of State Secretary;
- (b) the Deputy State President;
- (c) the State Treasurer;
- (d) up to 4 State Vice-President(s); and
- (e) a number of general members as the Board shall determine from time to time, but which must not exceed 7 (“**General Board Members**”),

each of whom shall be a “**Board Officer**”.

### 6.2 Election of Board Officers

- (a) Board Officers must be elected by the Association at the annual general meeting of the Board in accordance with Rule 10.4.
- (b) Casual vacancies must be filled in accordance with Rule 10.8.

### 6.3 General duties of Board Officers

- (a) As soon as practicable after being elected or appointed to the Board, each Board member must become familiar with these Rules and the Act.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Board members must exercise their power and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence.
- (d) Board members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties:
  - (i) in good faith and in the best interests of the Association; and
  - (ii) for a proper purpose.
- (e) Board members and former Board members must not make improper use of:
  - (i) their position; or
  - (ii) information acquired by virtue of holding their positionso as to gain an advantage for themselves or any other person or to cause detriment to the Association.
- (f) 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 of the Board.

#### **6.4 Specific duties of the State Secretary**

- (a) The State Secretary must perform any duty or function required under the Act to be performed by the secretary of an incorporated association.
- (b) The Board may delegate these duties and functions to a paid staff member reporting to the State Secretary in accordance with Rule 5.2.
- (c) Without limiting subrule (a), the State Secretary must:
  - (i) maintain the register of members;
  - (ii) keep custody of the common seal (if any) of the Association;
  - (iii) keep custody of books, documents and securities of the Association, except for the financial records referred to in Rule 11.6;
  - (iv) 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
  - (v) perform any other duty or function imposed on the State Secretary by these Rules.
- (d) The State Secretary must give to the Registrar notice of her appointment within 14 days after the appointment.

#### **6.5 Specific duties of the State Treasurer**

The State 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;
- (c) make any payments authorised by the Board or by a general meeting of the Association from the Association's funds; and
- (d) ensure cheques are signed by at least 2 of the following persons:
  - (i) the State President;
  - (ii) the Deputy State President;
  - (iii) the State Treasurer; and
  - (iv) the Executive Director.
- (e) ensure that the financial records of the Association are kept in accordance with the Act (and the policies in relation to the financial records set by the Board, from time to time); and
- (f) 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.

The State Treasurer must ensure that at least one other Board member has access to the accounts and financial records of the Association.

## **6.6 Annual general meetings of the Board**

- (a) The Board must convene an annual general meeting to be held within 5 months after the end of each Financial Year (“**annual general meeting**”).
- (b) The date, time and location of the annual general meeting will be determined by the Board.
- (c) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting is:
  - (i) to confirm the minutes of the annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;
  - (ii) to receive and consider the annual report of the Association on the activities of the Association during the preceding Financial Year;
  - (iii) to receive and consider the financial statement of the Association for the preceding Financial Year in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
  - (iv) to elect the Officers of the Board in accordance with Rule 10.4;
  - (v) to confirm or vary the amount (if any) of the Annual Subscription if required in accordance with these Rules and the Payment Date; and
  - (vi) the conduct of any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

## **6.7 Special general meetings of the Board**

- (a) Any general meeting of the Board, other than an annual general meeting is a special general meeting.
- (b) A special general meeting may be convened by the State President or by 4 Board members.
- (c) No business other than that set out in the notice under Rule 6.8 may be conducted at the meeting.

## **6.8 Notice of general meetings**

The State Secretary must give each Board member:

- (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.

The notice must:

- (c) specify the date, time and place of the meeting;
- (d) indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting; and
- (e) if a special resolution is to be proposed:
  - (i) state in full the proposed resolution;

- (ii) state the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution; and
- (f) comply with Rule 6.9(d).

## **6.9 Proxies**

- (a) A Board Member may appoint another member as her proxy to vote and speak on her behalf at a general meeting.
- (b) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the member making the appointment.
- (c) The member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on her behalf, otherwise the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as she sees fit.
- (d) Notice of a general meeting given to a member under Rule 6.8 must:
  - (i) state that the member may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting; and
  - (ii) include a copy of any form that the Board has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (e) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Board no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

## **6.10 Quorum**

- (a) No business may be conducted at a general meeting of the Board unless a quorum of Board members is present.
- (b) A quorum will be constituted if one third of all Board members are present either in person or by proxy.
- (c) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting, then the Board members present at the Board meeting may proceed with the business of the Board meeting as if a quorum were present, so long as no financial decisions may be taken at the Board meeting.

## **6.11 Voting at a general meeting**

- (a) On any question arising at a meeting:
  - (i) each Board member has one vote; and
  - (ii) each Board member may vote personally or by proxy in accordance with Rule 6.9; and
  - (iii) except in the case of a special resolution, the question must be decided on a majority of votes.
- (b) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the Board has the deciding vote.

## **6.12 Ordinary resolutions**

An ordinary resolution will be deemed to have passed where a simple majority of Board members who are present, either in person or by proxy, are in favour of the resolution.

## **6.13 Special resolutions**

- (a) A special resolution is passed if not less than three quarters of the Board members present, either in person or by proxy, vote in favour of the resolution.
- (b) In addition to certain matters specified in the Act, a special resolution is required:
- (c) to remove a Board Officer from office; or
  - (i) to alter these Rules, including changing the name or any of the purposes of the Association.

## **6.14 Determining whether resolution carried**

The Chairperson of a general meeting of the Board 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.

## **6.15 Proof of whether resolution carried**

An entry recording the showing of hands on the vote of a resolution and the Chairperson's declaration is conclusive proof of the fact of whether the resolution was carried.

## **6.16 Conflict of interest**

A Board member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a meeting must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the relevant body.

The member:

- (a) must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; and
- (b) must not vote on the matter.

This rule does not apply to a material personal interest:

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

## **6.17 Use of technology**

- (a) A Board member who is not physically present at a Board meeting may participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows the Board member and the Board members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (b) A Board member participating in a Board meeting as permitted under subrule (a) is taken to be present at the meeting, and if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

## **6.18 Procedure and order of business**

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

## **6.19 Minutes**

- (a) The State Secretary must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each meeting of the Board.
- (b) The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- (c) In addition, the minutes of each meeting must include the names of the members attending the meeting in person or by proxy.

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# **7 Powers of State Council**

## **7.1 Role and powers**

The following powers of management of the Board are delegated to the State Council:

- (a) the approval of establishment of new Branches and Groups; and
- (b) changes to the composition of existing Groups.

## **7.2 Delegation**

The State Council may delegate to any committee or subcommittee any of its powers or functions, including (without limitation) committees for the following purposes:

- (a) catering;
- (b) creative arts;
- (c) membership;
- (d) ACWW International and Community Support;
- (e) magazine/communications;
- (f) the maintenance of the Association club;
- (g) agriculture and environment;

- (h) performing arts; and
- (i) social issues.

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## **8 Composition of State Council, Group(s) and Branch(es)**

### **8.1 Composition of the State Council**

The State Council shall consist of:

- (a) the State President;
- (b) the Deputy State President;
- (c) the State Treasurer;
- (d) up to 4 State Vice-President(s);
- (e) all Committee Chairmen;
- (f) all Group Presidents; and
- (g) all Members of Honour

each of whom may be referred to as a “**State Council members**”.

### **8.2 Composition of the Groups**

- (a) Each Group shall be formed as the State Council decides.
- (b) A Group must comprise of at least 2 Branches.
- (c) Each Group shall manage affairs within its own boundaries subject to these Rules.
- (d) Each Group may appoint:
  - (i) a Group President;
  - (ii) a Group Secretary; and
  - (iii) a Group Treasurer (“**Group Officers**”).
- (e) The Group President, Group Secretary or the Group Treasurer may all be the same member.
- (f) The Group President, Group Secretary and Group Treasurer must be elected by the members of that Group in a general meeting in accordance with Rule 10.4.
- (g) Up to a maximum of 2 Delegates from each Branch comprising the Group may attend and vote at a Group Meeting. Other Branch members are also welcome to attend Group meetings but are not entitled to vote unless they are a Branch Delegate.
- (h) Each Group may delegate to a committee any of its powers or functions, other than this power of delegation. The delegation must be in writing and may be subject to conditions and limitations as that Group considers



appropriate. The Group may in writing revoke a delegation in whole or in part.

### **8.3 Composition of the Branches**

- (a) Each Branch shall manage affairs within its own boundaries subject to these Rules.
- (b) Each Branch may appoint:
  - (i) a Branch President;
  - (ii) a Branch Secretary; and
  - (iii) a Branch Treasurer ("**Branch Officers**").
- (c) The Branch President, Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer may be all the same Member.
- (d) The Branch President, Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer must be elected by the members of that Branch in a general meeting in accordance with Rule 10.4.
- (e) Voting members of each Branch may appoint by a simple majority vote up to a maximum of 2 delegates from each Branch to represent them at Group Meetings ("**Branch Delegates**").
- (f) Each Branch may delegate to a committee any of its powers or functions, other than this power of delegation. The delegation must be in writing and may be subject to conditions and limitations as that Branch considers appropriate. The Branch may in writing revoke a delegation in whole or in part.

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## **9 Meetings of the Association, Branch(s) and Group(s)**

### **9.1 Annual general meetings of the Association**

- (a) The Association must convene an annual general meeting to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (b) The date, time and location of the annual general meeting of the Association will be determined by the Board.
- (c) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting of the Association is:
  - (i) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;
  - (ii) to receive and consider the annual report of the Association on the activities of the Association during the preceding Financial Year;
  - (iii) to receive and consider the financial statement of the Association for the preceding financial year in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
  - (iv) to elect the Officers of the Board and State Council members of the Association in accordance with Rule 10.4; and

- (v) the conduct of any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

## **9.2 Annual general meetings of Groups and Branches**

- (a) Each Group must convene an annual general meeting to be held within 3 months after the end of each financial year.
- (b) Each Branch must convene an annual general meeting to be held within 3 months after the end of each financial year.
- (c) The date, time and location of the annual general meeting of a Group or Branch (as the case may be) will be determined by:
  - (i) the Group President; or
  - (ii) the Branch President (as the case may be).
- (d) The ordinary business of each Group and Branch annual general meeting is:
  - (i) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;
  - (ii) to receive and consider the annual report of the Group or Branch on the activities of the Group or Branch during the preceding financial year;
  - (iii) to receive and consider the financial statements of the Group or Branch for the preceding financial year; and
  - (iv) the conduct of any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

## **9.3 Special general meetings**

- (a) Any general meeting of the Association, a Group or a Branch, other than an annual general meeting, is a special general meeting.
- (b) The State President, Group President or Branch President may respectively convene a special general meeting of the Association, Group or Branch (as the case may be), as applicable whenever they think fit.
- (c) No business other than that set out in the notice of special general meeting of the Association, Group or Branch (as the case may be) may be conducted at the meeting.

## **9.4 Special general meetings held at request of members**

- (a) The State Secretary must convene a special general meeting of the Association if a request to do so is made in accordance with subrule (c) by at least 10% of the total number of Voting Members.
- (b) A Group President or Branch President must convene a special general meeting of the relevant Group or Branch if a request to do so is made in accordance with subrule (c) by at least 10% of the total number of members eligible to vote at a general meeting of the Group or Branch (as the case may be).

- (c) A request for a special general meeting must:
  - (i) be in writing;
  - (ii) state the business to be considered at the meeting and any resolutions to be proposed;
  - (iii) include the names and signatures of the members requesting the meeting; and
  - (iv) be given to the State Secretary, Group President or Branch Secretary (as the case may be).
- (d) If the Association, Group or Branch (as the case may be) 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.
- (e) A special general meeting convened by members under subrule (d):
  - (i) must be held within 3 months after the date on which the original request was made; and
  - (ii) may only consider the business stated in that request.
- (f) The Association, Group or Branch (as the case may be) must reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by the members convening a special general meeting under subrule (d).

## **9.5 Notice of general meetings**

The State Secretary, Group President, Branch President or members convening a special general meeting (as the case may be) must give to each member of the Association, Group or Branch:

- (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.

The notice must:

- (c) specify the date, time and place of the meeting;
- (d) indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting; and
- (e) if a special resolution is to be proposed:
  - (i) state in full the proposed resolution;
  - (ii) state the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution; and
- (d) comply with Rule 9.6(d).

## **9.6 Proxies**

- (a) A Voting Member may appoint another member as her proxy to vote and speak on her behalf at a general meeting.

- (b) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the member making the appointment.
- (c) The member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on her behalf, otherwise the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as she sees fit.
- (d) Notice of a general meeting given to a member under Rule 9.5 must:
  - (i) state that the member may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting; and
  - (ii) include a copy of any form that the Board has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (e) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Association no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

## 9.7 Quorum

- (a) A quorum will be constituted in respect of a meeting set out in the first column of the table below, when the number of members set out in the second column are present in person or by proxy at the relevant meeting:

Meeting	Quorum requirements
General meeting of the Association (including the annual general meeting of the Association)	Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5% of all Voting Members; or</li> <li>• 300 Voting Members.</li> </ul>
State Conference	One third of the Branches are represented by their Branch Delegates and one third of the members of the State Council.
Group general meetings	One third of the Branches of that Group are represented by their Branch Delegates.
Branch general meetings	One third of the Voting Members of that Branch are present.

- (b) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting, then the members present at the meeting may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present, so long as no financial decisions may be taken at the meeting.

## 9.8 Voting at a general meeting

- (a) On any question arising at a general meeting, except at Group Meetings:

- (i) each Voting Member has one vote;
  - (ii) each Voting Member may vote personally or by proxy; and
  - (iii) except in the case of a special resolution, the question must be decided on a majority of votes.
- (b) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a deciding vote.

### **9.9 Passing of ordinary resolutions**

An ordinary resolution will be deemed to have passed where a simple majority of Voting Members who are present and entitled to vote at the meeting (whether in person or by proxy) are in favour of the resolution.

### **9.10 Passing of special resolutions**

- (a) A special resolution is passed if not less than three quarters of the Voting Members who are present and entitled to vote at the meeting (whether in person or by proxy) are in favour of the resolution.
- (b) In addition to certain matters specified in the Act, for the following matters a special resolution is required to be passed in the following manner:
- (i) a special resolution must be passed by the relevant Branch, Group or the State Council to remove an Branch or Group Officer or a member of State Council from office; or
  - (ii) a special resolution must be passed by the Association to alter these Rules, including changing the name or any of the purposes of the Association.

### **9.11 Determining whether resolution carried**

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.

### **9.12 Proof of whether resolution carried**

An entry recording the showing of hands on the vote of a resolution and the Chairperson's declaration is conclusive proof of the fact of whether the resolution was carried.

### **9.13 Poll**

For meetings of the State Council or the Association, a poll must be taken on a question if:

- (a) a poll is demanded by 10 or more members; or

- (b) the Chairperson of the meeting so directs.

If a poll must be conducted, then:

- (c) the poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the Chair of the meeting; and
- (d) the Chair must declare the result of the resolution on the basis of the poll as soon as practicable.

#### **9.14 Minutes**

- (a) The State Secretary, Group President or Branch President (as the case may be) must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each meeting of the Board, State Council, Group and Branch.
- (b) The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- (c) In addition, the minutes of each meeting must include the names of the members attending the meeting in person or by proxy.

#### **9.15 Conflict of interest**

A member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a meeting must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the relevant body.

The member:

- (a) must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; and
- (b) must not vote on the matter.

This rule does not apply to a material personal interest:

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

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## **10 Election of Board Officers, Council, Group Officers and Branch Officers**

### **10.1 Eligibility to be a Board Officer, Council, Group Officer or Branch Officer**

- (a) Subject to subrule (b), a member is eligible to be elected or appointed as a Board Officer, a member of State Council, Group Officer or Branch Officer (except as State President) if the member:
  - (i) is 18 years or over; and
  - (ii) is a Voting Member.
- (b) A member is only eligible to be elected as State President if they have held office for at least 6 years (consecutive or otherwise) as either a Group President or as a member of State Council.

## **10.2 Positions to be declared vacant at annual general meeting**

At every annual general meeting of each of the Board, State Council, Group and Branch, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare that all positions on the Board, State Council, Group or Branch (as the case may be), is vacant and hold elections for those positions in accordance with this Part.

## **10.3 Nominations**

- (a) Prior to the election for each position, the Chairperson of the meeting must call for nominations to fill that position.
- (b) An eligible Voting Member of the Association may:
  - (i) nominate herself; or
  - (ii) with the member's consent, be nominated by another member.
- (c) A member who is nominated for a position and fails to be elected to that position may be nominated for any other position for which an election is yet to be held.

## **10.4 Election**

- (a) At the annual general meeting of the Board, State Council, Branch or Group (as the case may be), separate elections must be held for each office of the Board, State Council, Branch or Group (as the case may be).
- (b) If the number of members nominated for a position is less than or equal to the number to be elected, the Chairperson of the meeting must declare each of those members to be elected to the position.
- (c) If more members are nominated than there are positions available for that office, then a ballot must be held in accordance with Rule 10.5.

## **10.5 Ballot**

- (a) If a ballot is required for the election for a position, the Chairperson of the meeting must appoint a member to act as returning officer to conduct the ballot.
- (b) The returning officer must not be a member nominated for the position.
- (c) Before the ballot is taken, each candidate may make a short speech in support of her election.
- (d) The election must be by secret ballot.
- (e) The returning officer must give a blank piece of paper to:
  - (i) each Voting Member present in person; and
  - (ii) each proxy appointed by a member.
- (f) If the ballot is for a single position, the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote.

- (g) If the ballot is for more than one position:
  - (i) the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of each candidate for whom they wish to vote;
  - (ii) the voter must not write the names of more candidates than the number to be elected.
- (h) Ballot papers that do not comply with subrule (g) are not to be counted.
- (i) Each ballot paper on which the name of a candidate has been written counts as one vote for that candidate.
- (j) 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.
- (k) If the returning officer is unable to declare the result of an election under subrule (j) because 2 or more candidates received the same number of votes, the returning officer must:
  - (i) conduct a further election for the position in accordance with this Part to decide which of those candidates is to be elected; or
  - (ii) with the agreement of those candidates, decide by lot which of them is to be elected.

## **10.6 Terms of office**

- (a) Subject to this Rule, each Board Officer, State Council member, Group Officer or Branch Officer shall hold office until the position is declared vacant in accordance with Rule 10.2.
- (b) Board Officers, State Council members, Group Officers and Branch Officers are eligible, and may be nominated, for re-election (including for election as a Board Officer, Council, Group Officer or Branch Officer in the same or a different office).
- (c) A Board Officer, State Council member, Group Officer or Branch Officer may serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms in a particular officer. For the purposes of this Part, completing a term as a casual appointment will not be considered a completion of a term.
- (d) At a general meeting of the Board, Association, State Council, Group or Branch (as the case may be), the relevant body may:
  - (i) by special resolution remove an Officer or State Council member; and
  - (ii) elect an eligible member of the Association to fill the vacant position in accordance with Rule 10.4.

## **10.7 Leave of absence**

- (a) The State Secretary, Group President or Branch President may grant a leave of absence from meetings of the Board, Group or Branch as the case may be for a period not exceeding 3 months.
- (b) The State Secretary, Group President or Branch President may not grant a leave of absence retrospectively unless she is satisfied that it was not feasible for the member to seek the leave in advance.



## 10.8 Vacation of office

- (a) A Board Officer, State Council member, Group Officer or Branch Officer ceases to hold office if she:
  - (i) ceases to be a member or her membership is suspended in accordance with these Rules;
  - (ii) become insolvent within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth);
  - (iii) resigns from office by notice in writing given to the Secretary of the relevant body;
  - (iv) fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the relevant body, without receiving leave to do so; or
  - (v) otherwise ceases to be an Officer, State Council member, Group Officer or Branch Officer by operation of section 78 of the Act.
- (b) Except for the State Secretary, the Board, State Council, Group Officer(s) or Branch Officer(s) may appoint an eligible Voting Member of the Association to fill a position:
  - (i) which has become vacant; or
  - (ii) was not filled by election at the last Board, State Council, Branch or Group annual general meeting

in accordance with the processes set out in in this Rule 10 at a special general meeting of the Board, State Council or Group or Branch.
- (c) If the position of State Secretary becomes vacant the State Council must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- (d) The Board and State Council may each continue to act despite any vacancy in membership.

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## 11 Financial matters

### 11.1 Source of funds

The funds of the Association may be derived from:

- (a) Annual Subscriptions;
- (b) donations (including both donations of funds and in-kind donations);
- (c) fund-raising activities conducted by the Association, Groups and Branches;
- (d) grants;
- (e) contributions made by any Branch, Group or member;
- (f) rent;
- (g) borrowing, on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit;
- (h) interest and investments; and

- (i) any other source approved by the Board.

## **11.2 Management of funds**

- (a) The Association, each Branch and Group must open an account with an Australian financial institution:
  - (i) from which all expenditure of the Association, Branch or Group is made;
  - (ii) into which the Association, the Branch, or that Group deposits all of its revenue; and
  - (iii) which can be accessed by the State Treasurer.
- (b) All funds must be deposited into the financial account of the Association, or the relevant Group or Branch (as applicable) no later than 5 working days after they are received. All funds deposited into a Group or Branch financial account are the property of the Association

## **11.3 Expenditure by the Board**

- (a) Subject to these Rules expenditure on behalf of the Association may be approved by the Board.
- (b) The Association may distribute funds to Branches and Groups, including by granting a loan on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit.
- (c) The State President and/or the Executive Director may authorise expenditure on behalf of the Association without requiring the approval of the Board, where:
  - (i) the amount of expenditure does not exceed \$1000 in a single transaction, or other amount as may be specified by the Board from time to time; or
  - (ii) the expenditure relates to the payment of salaries of staff employed by the Association, utilities or service fees payable by the Association.
- (d) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by any 2 of either the State President, Deputy State President, State Treasurer and Executive Director who are authorised to sign such documents by resolution of the Board at a general meeting of the Board.

## **11.4 Expenditure by the Branch President**

- (a) The Board may impose restrictions on the expenditure of any Branch from time to time.
- (b) Subject to any restrictions imposed by the Board, the Branch President may approve expenditure on behalf of that Branch.
- (c) Each Branch Treasurer may authorise expenditure on behalf of the Branch without requiring the approval of the Branch President, where:
  - (i) the amount of expenditure does not exceed \$500 in a single transaction or other amount as may be specified by the Board from time to time; or

- (ii) the expenditure relates to member reimbursement, purchase of CWA goods and/or preparation for an event.
- (d) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by the Branch President and either the Branch Treasurer or Branch Secretary.

### **11.5 Expenditure by the Group President**

- (a) The Board may impose restrictions on the expenditure of any Group.
- (b) Subject to any restrictions imposed by the Board, each Group President may approve expenditure on behalf of that Group.
- (c) Each Group Treasurer may authorise expenditure on behalf of the Group without requiring the approval of the Group President, where:
  - (i) the amount of expenditure does not exceed \$500 in a single transaction or other amount as may be specified by the Board from time to time; or
  - (ii) the expenditure relates to member reimbursement, purchase of CWA goods and/or preparation for an event.
- (d) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by the Group President and either the Group Treasurer or Group Secretary.

### **11.6 Financial records**

- (a) The Association, each Group and each Branch must keep financial records that:
  - (i) correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance; and
  - (ii) enable financial statements to be prepared as required by the Act.
- (b) The Association, each Group and each Branch must retain the financial records for 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.
- (c) The State Treasurer must keep in his or her custody, or under his or her control:
  - (i) the financial records of the Association for the current financial year; and
  - (ii) any other financial records as authorised by the Board.

### **11.7 Financial statements**

- (a) For each financial year, the Board must ensure that the requirements under the Act relating to the financial statements of the Association are met.
- (b) Without limiting subrule (a), those requirements include—
  - (i) the preparation of the financial statements;

- (ii) if required, the review or auditing of the financial statements;
- (iii) the certification of the financial statements by the Board;
- (iv) the submission of the financial statements to the annual general meeting of the Association; and
- (v) the lodgement with the Registrar of the financial statements and accompanying reports, certificates, statements and fees.

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## **12 General Matters**

### **12.1 Common seal**

- (a) The Association may have a common seal.
- (b) If the Association has a common seal:
  - (i) the name of the Association must appear in legible characters on the common seal;
  - (ii) 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 2 of either the State President, Deputy State President or State Treasurer; and
  - (iii) the common seal must be kept in the custody of the State Secretary.

### **12.2 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 State Secretary.

### **12.3 Notice requirements**

- (a) Any notice required to be given to a member under these Rules may be given:
  - (i) by handing the notice to the member personally;
  - (ii) by sending it by post to the member at the address recorded for the member on the register of members; or
  - (iii) by sending it by email or facsimile transmission to the member at the email or facsimile address recorded for the member on the register of members .
- (b) Any notice required to be given to the Association or the Board may be given:
  - (i) by handing the notice to a member of the Board;
  - (ii) by sending the notice by post to the registered address;

- (iii) by leaving the notice at the registered address;
- (iv) by email to the email address of the Association or the State Secretary; or
- (v) by facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the Association.

## **12.4 Winding up and cancellation**

- (a) The Association may be wound up voluntarily by special resolution.
- (b) 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.

Subject to the Act and any court order made under section 133 of the Act, if any surplus assets remain on the winding up of the Association after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, the surplus assets must be given or transferred to an Approved Institution which:

- (c) has a public charitable purpose or public charitable objects similar to the purposes of the Association;
- (d) is maintained exclusively for, or covenants to use the surplus assets exclusively for, charitable purposes; and
- (e) whose rules of association or constitution prohibits the distribution of its income and property among its members to an extent at least as great as imposed on the Association under this Constitution.

The Approved Institution is to be determined by special resolution of the members at or before the time of dissolution and in default by application to the court.

## **12.5 Rules**

Each Branch, or otherwise the State Secretary, must make a copy of these Rules available to any member or applicant for membership, on request, free of charge.

## **12.6 Revocation of endorsement as a deductible gift recipient**

If the Association is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Division 30 of the Tax Act and the endorsement is revoked, despite any other provision in these Rules, all remaining gifts, deductible contributions and any money received in respect of such gifts and contributions must be transferred to an Approved Institution that has a similar charitable purpose or public charitable object similar to the purpose and objects of the Association.