



**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF W.A.
INCORPORATED**

CONSTITUTION

**ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF W.A. INCORPORATED (ECCWA)
DATE OF INCORPORATION: 26/08/1975
IARN: A0730121Z
ABN: 91 163 351 869**

**ECCWA Constitution as endorsed at the Special General Meeting held on 28th
November 2023
Ethnic Communities Council of W.A. Incorporated.
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Preamble

The Ethnic Communities Council of W.A. Incorporated, established in 1975, is the State’s peak ethnic umbrella organisation. ECCWA is a non-government, non-profit community based organisation, which takes an active interest in all aspects of multiculturalism and ethnic affairs and through advocacy and support acts on behalf of all ethnic communities/persons in Western Australia. ECCWA’s mission is to work with member non-government and stakeholders to ensure: ethnic community participation and consultation in decision-making at all levels, provision of research and policy, access to all information and equitable sharing of government and community resources, just and harmonious relations within our multicultural community and a consultative, advisory and training service to government and non-government organisations. ECCWA’s vision is a fair and just society, one in which all people are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the community and are supported to reach their full potential, where diversity is valued, and people live in harmony.

PART 1 — PRELIMINARY

1. Information provided to the Commissioner under section 29(5) of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015

A. Name of Association:

The name of the association shall be the ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF W.A. INCORPORATED (the Association), hereafter referred to as ‘the Council/Association’.

B. Registered Office:

The office of the Council/Association shall be at a place determined by the Board

C. Purpose of Council/Association:

To work with member organisations, the community, government and non-government stakeholders to ensure:

- Ethnic community participation and consultation in decision making at all levels;
- Just and harmonious relations within our multicultural community;
- A consultative, advisory and training service to government and non-government organisations;
- Provision of research and policy; and
- Access to all information and equitable share of government and community resources.

D. Objects:

The Objects of the Council/Association shall be:

- (i) To foster participation by ethnic communities in the development of a cohesive, culturally pluralistic Australian society bearing in mind the historical contribution which all ethnic communities have made to the development of the same.
- (ii) To act as the peak body for ethnic communities in Western Australia, which shall advocate for the rights of ethnic communities in ensuring the protection of these rights, and to also advocate for a racism free society.
- (iii) To participate in government and quasi government bodies established for the purposes of developing the Council/Association's objectives.
- (iv) To promote joint action and co-operation between ethnic communities on issues of common concern while assisting and encouraging the full participation of ethnic groups in the community in the social, economic and cultural life of the society
- (v) To help build the capabilities of new and emerging ethnic groups
- (vi) To provide support to ethnic groups who have aims and objects that are consistent with that of the Association
- (vii) To ensure the rights of the ethnic communities including effective participation in decisions which affect them, and encourage the sharing of community resources.
- (viii) To provide multi-lingual welfare and counselling services to assist the aged, women, children, youth and ethnic people with disabilities.
- (ix) To render such assistance as the Council/Association shall consider appropriate for the relief of persons in necessitous circumstances.
- (x) To provide interpreting and/or translating services in specialized areas of need.
- (xi) To do and to perform all acts, matter and things as are charitable and for benevolent purposes having public benefit in accordance with the law of the State of Western Australia and the law of the Commonwealth of Australia and to disseminate any information within a Social Justice framework that achieves the objectives of the Council/Association in ensuring equity and access to and for ethnic communities
- (xii) To increase the awareness of the public that Australia is a Multicultural Society, and the needs and issues that culturally and linguistically diverse Western Australians face.
- (xiii) To render any other assistance, services or facilities that the Council/Association might consider necessary as the need arises.
- (xiv) To undertake any other activity to promote multiculturalism and ethnic welfare such as providing facilities for cultural events.
- (xv) To ensure a united Australia that respects its land, cherishes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and its multicultural heritage and provides equal justice and equity for all.

- (xvi) And other Objects as the Association shall consider adequate and appropriate from time to time.

E. Powers of the Council/Association

- (i) To purchase, sell, mortgage, lease, exchange or otherwise acquire or dispose of any real or personal property.
- (ii) With respect to the administration of the Council/Association, open and operate bank accounts and draw, accept and negotiate cheques and other negotiable instruments.
- (iii) To obtain monies by way of contributions, donations, subscriptions, grants or by any other lawful method and to receive gifts of real or personal property.
- (iv) To deal with the monies of the Council/Association not immediately required for the purposes of the Council/Association in such a manner as authorised by law and as may from time to time be determined by the Board.
- (v) To appoint delegates and representatives to other organisations or bodies.
- (vi) To appoint or elect or co-opt sub committees and working parties.
- (vii) To approve the membership of, suspend, expel or otherwise deal with any member or official for any behaviour or non-compliance with the Rules of the Council/Association, By-Laws of the Council/Association or decisions of the Board when such behaviour or non-compliance is deemed not to be in the best interests of the Council/Association.
- (viii) To appoint, suspend or dismiss or otherwise deal with employees, consultants, subcontractors or any other bodies, professionals or persons having dealings with the Council/Association.
- (ix) To make By-Laws for the conduct of the Council/Association.
- (x) To erect, maintain and improve or make alterations to any land or buildings or other property in the care, control, custody or ownership of the Council/Association.
- (xi) To engage in and/or provide services for activities not necessarily or substantially focussed on migrants and/or refugees provided any proceeds thereby received are redirected to activities that meet the needs of culturally and/or linguistically diverse Western Australians for their settlement, welfare, education and training, or their cultural, legal and related needs.
- (xii) To do such other acts or things as the Council/Association or its Members (other than Associate Members) may deem necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects and the exercise of the above powers.

F. Terms used

In these rules, unless the contrary intention appears —

Act means the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*;

Associate member means a member with the rights referred to in Rule 8 (4).

Association means the incorporated association to which these rules apply;

Books, of the Association, includes the following —

- (i) a register;
- (ii) financial records, financial statements or financial reports, however compiled, recorded or stored;
- (iii) a document;
- (iv) any other record of information;

By laws means by-laws made by the Association under rule 64;

Commissioner means the person for the time being designated as the Commissioner under section 153 of the Act;

Board means the management board of the Association;

Board meeting means a meeting of the board;

Board member means a member of the board;

ECCWA means the Ethnic Communities Council of W.A. Incorporated. as in Rule 1.

Financial records include —

- (i) invoices, receipts, orders for the payment of money, bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes and vouchers; and
- (ii) documents of prime entry; and
- (iii) working papers and other documents needed to explain —
 - (a) the methods by which financial statements are prepared; and
 - (b) adjustments to be made in preparing financial statements;

Financial report, of a tier 2 association or a tier 3 association, has the meaning given in section 63 of the Act;

Financial statements mean the financial statements in relation to the Association required under Part 5 Division 3 of the Act;

Financial year, of the Association, has the meaning given in rule 2;

General meeting, of the Association, means a meeting of the Association that all members are entitled to receive notice of and to attend;

Member means a person (including a body corporate) who is an ordinary member or an associate member of the Association;

Ordinary board member means a board member who is not an office holder of the Association under rule 27(3);

Ordinary member means a member with the rights referred to in rule 8(5);

President means the Board member holding office as the President of the Association;

Register of members means the register of members referred to in section 53 of the Act;

Rules means these rules of the Association, as in force for the time being;

Secretary means the board member holding office as the secretary of the Association;

Special general meeting means a general meeting of the Association other than the annual general meeting;

Special resolution means a resolution passed by the members at a general meeting in accordance with section 51 of the Act;

Subcommittee means a **subcommittee** appointed by the board under rule 48(1)(a);

Tier 1 association means an incorporated association to which section 64(1) of the Act applies; **Tier 2 association** means an incorporated association to which section 64(2) of the Act applies; **Tier 3 association** means an incorporated association to which section 64(3) of the Act applies;

Treasurer means the board member holding office as the treasurer of the Association.

2. Financial Year

- A. The first financial year of the Council/Association is to be the period notified to the Commissioner under section 7(4) (e) or, if relevant, section 29(5)(e) of the Act.
- B. Each subsequent financial year of the Council/Association is the period of 12 months commencing at the termination of the first financial year or the anniversary of that termination.

PART 2 — ASSOCIATION TO BE NOT FOR PROFIT BODY

3. Not-for-profit body

- (1) The property and income of the Council/Association must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects or purposes of the Council/Association and no part of that property or income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to any member, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects or purposes.
- (2) A payment may be made to a member out of the funds of the Council/Association only if it is authorised under sub rule (3).
- (3) A payment to a member out of the funds of the Council/Association is authorised if it is:
 - (a) the payment in good faith to the member as reasonable remuneration for any services provided to the Council/Association, or for goods supplied to the Council/Association, in the ordinary course of business; or
 - (b) the payment of interest, on money borrowed by the Council/Association from the member, at a rate not greater than the cash rate published from time to time by the Reserve Bank of Australia; or
 - (c) the payment of reasonable rent to the member for premises leased by the member to the Council/Association; or
 - (d) the reimbursement of reasonable expenses properly incurred by the member on behalf of the Council/Association.

PART 3 — MEMBERS

Division 1 — Membership

4. Eligibility for membership

A. Ordinary Membership:

- (1) Membership consists of affiliated ethnic associations and institutions represented by duly accredited representatives. The Board, as required, can decide changes in Membership categories from time to time.
- (2) Non-government organisations that provide community services or promote the interests and wellbeing of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and ethnic communities.

B. Associate Membership:

The Board may admit any person or organisation not defined by (1) or (2) above to be an Associate member of the Council/Association.

5. Applying for membership for membership

- (1) An organisation or person who wants to become a member/Associate member must apply in writing to the Council/Association.
- (2) The application must be made on the Ethnic Community Council of W.A. Incorporated's membership application form.

- (3) The application must be signed by the applicant/ or the Chair or President of the organisation as the case may be.
- (4) The applicant must specify in the application the class of membership i.e. membership/associate membership, to which the application relates

6. Dealing with membership applications

- (1) The board must consider each application for membership of the Council/Association and decide whether to accept or reject the application.
- (2) Subject to sub rule (3), the board must consider applications in the order in which they are received by the Council. In considering applications it must ensure that the applications for ordinary membership meet the relevant criteria inter alia as follows:
 - (a) At least 25 members.
 - (b) Has had board or committee meetings at least thrice a year.
 - (c) Provides financial report of its operations for the preceding financial year.

The board should determine the evidence to be provided to verify (a), (b) and (c) above and can provide exemptions in exceptional cases. Additional criteria can be added by the board, if 75 percent of board members vote in favour of it.

- (3) The board may delay its consideration of an application if it considers that any matter relating to the application needs to be clarified by the applicant or that the applicant needs to provide further information in support of the application.
- (4) The board must not accept an application unless the applicant —
 - (a) is eligible under rule 4; and
 - (b) has applied under rule 5.
- (5) The board may reject an application even if the applicant —
 - (a) is eligible under rule 4; and
 - (b) has applied under rule 5.
- (6) The Secretary shall as soon as practicable inform in writing the applicant association or institution of the result of the application and if admitted request that the names and addresses of the appointed delegates be supplied to the Council/Association.
- (7) Member associations and institutions shall be entitled to two delegates. Nothing shall prevent an association/institution to accredit a lesser number of delegates as entitled. A person cannot be a delegate of more than two member associations/institutions.
- (8) The delegates must be appointed by the member associations and institutions every year for the Annual General Meeting
- (9) Nothing shall prevent a member association or institution from recalling a delegate at any time and appointing another delegate in his/her place and notifying the Board of that decision forthwith.
- (10) The Board of the Council/Association shall also reserve the right to request a member association to replace or withdraw its delegate if that delegate's actions are in conflict with the objectives of the Council/Association or that delegate has a personal conflict of interest relating to the work of the Council. Such a request can be initiated, only after action in Rules 18 to 24 have been completed.

- (11) The board must notify the applicant of the board's decision to reject the application as soon as practicable after making the decision and is not required to give the applicant its reasons for doing so.

7. Becoming a member

An applicant for membership of the Council/Association becomes a member when —

- (a) the board accepts the application; and
- (b) the applicant pays any membership fees payable to the Council/Association under rule 12.

8. Classes of membership

- (1) The Council/Association consists of ordinary members and any associate members provided for under Rule 4, sub rule (2).
- (2) The Council/Association may have any class of associate membership approved by resolution at a general meeting, including junior membership, senior membership, honorary membership, life membership and corporate membership.
- (3) An individual who has not reached the age of 15 years is only eligible to be an associate member.
- (4) A person can only be an associate member and has no voting rights at general meetings of the Ethnic Communities Council of W.A. Incorporated nor can they contest board membership.
- (5) An ordinary member has full voting rights and any other rights conferred on members by these rules or approved by resolution at a general meeting or determined by the board.
- (6) The number of members of any class is not limited unless otherwise approved by resolution at a general meeting.

9. When membership ceases

- (1) A person ceases to be a member when any of the following takes place —
 - (a) for a member who is an individual, the individual dies;
 - (b) for a member who is a body corporate, the body corporate is wound up;
 - (c) the person resigns from the Council/Association under rule 10;
 - (d) the person is expelled from the Council/Association under rule 15;
 - (e) the person ceases to be a member under rule 12(4).
- (2) The secretary must keep a record, for at least one year after a person ceases to be a member, of —
 - (a) the date on which the person ceased to be a member; and
 - (b) the reason why the person ceased to be a member.

10. Resignation

- (1) A member/associate member may resign from membership of the Council/Association by giving written notice of the resignation to the secretary.
- (2) The resignation takes effect —
 - (a) When the secretary receives the notice; or
 - (b) If a later time is stated in the notice, at that later time.
- (3) An organisation/person who has resigned from membership or associate membership of the Council/Association remains liable for any fees that are owed to the Council/Association (the owed amount) at the time of resignation.

- (4) The owed amount may be recovered by the Council/Association in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due to the Council/Association

11. Rights not transferable

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

Division 2 — Membership fees

12. Membership fees

- (1) The board must determine the entrance fee (if any) and the annual membership fee (if any) to be paid for membership of the Council/Association
- (2) The fees determined under sub rule (1) may be different for different classes of membership.
- (3) A member/associate member must pay the annual membership fee to the treasurer, or another person authorised by the board to accept payments, by the date (the due date) determined by the board.
- (4) If a member/ associate member has not paid the annual membership fee within the period of 3 months after the due date, the member ceases to be a member on the expiry of that period.
- (5) If an organisation/person who has ceased to be a member under sub rule (4) offers to pay the annual membership fee after the period referred to in that sub rule has expired —
 - (a) the board may, at its discretion, accept that payment; and
 - (b) if the payment is accepted, the organisation's/person's membership is reinstated from the date the payment is accepted.

Division 3 — Register of members

13. Register of members

- (1) The secretary, or another person authorised by the board, is responsible for the requirements imposed on the Council/Association under section 53 of the Act to maintain the register of members and record in that register any change in the membership of the Council/Association.
- (2) In addition to the matters referred to in section 53(2) of the Act, the register of members must include the class of membership (if applicable) to which each member belongs and the date on which each member becomes a member.
- (3) The register of members must be kept at the Ethnic Communities Council of W.A Incorporated office, or at another place determined by the board.
- (4) A member who wishes to inspect the register of members must contact the secretary to make the necessary arrangements.
- (5) If —
 - (a) a member inspecting the register of members wishes to make a copy of, or take an extract from, the register under section 54(2) of the Act; or
 - (b) a member makes a written request under section 56(1) of the Act to be provided with a copy of the register of members,the board may require the member to provide a statutory declaration setting out the purpose for which the copy or extract is required and declaring that the purpose is connected with the affairs of the Council/Association.

PART 4 — DISCIPLINARY ACTION, DISPUTES AND MEDIATION

Division 1 — Term Used

14. Term Used: Member

In this part -

member, in relation to a member who is expelled from the Council/Association, includes former member.

Division 2 — Disciplinary Action

15. Suspension or expulsion

- (1) The board may decide to suspend a member's membership/associate membership or to expel a member from the Council/Association if —
 - (a) the member contravenes any of these rules; or
- (2) the member acts detrimentally to the interests of the Council/Association. The secretary must give the member written notice of the proposed suspension or expulsion at least 28 days before the board meeting at which the proposal is to be considered by the board.
- (3) The notice given to the member must state —
 - (a) when and where the board meeting is to be held; and
 - (b) the grounds on which the proposed suspension or expulsion is based; and
 - (c) that the member, or the member's representative, may attend the meeting and will be given a reasonable opportunity to make written or oral (or both written and oral) submissions to the board about the proposed suspension or expulsion;
- (4) At the board meeting, the board must —
 - (a) give the member, or the member's representative, a reasonable opportunity to make written or oral (or both written and oral) submissions to the board about the proposed suspension or expulsion; and
 - (b) give due consideration to any submissions so made; and
 - (c) decide —
 - (i) whether or not to suspend the member's membership and, if the decision is to suspend the membership, the period of suspension; or
 - (ii) whether or not to expel the member from the Council/Association.
- (5) A decision of the board to suspend the member's membership or to expel the member from the Council/Association takes immediate effect.
- (6) The board must give the member written notice of the board's decision, and the reasons for the decision, within 7 days after the board meeting at which the decision is made.
- (7) A member whose membership is suspended or who is expelled from the Council/Association may, within 14 days after receiving notice of the Board's decision under sub rule (6), give written notice to the secretary requesting the appointment of a mediator under rule 23. If notice is given under sub rule (7), the member who gives the notice and the board are the parties to the mediation

16. Consequences of suspension

- (1) During the period a member's membership is suspended, the member —
 - (a) loses any rights (including voting rights) arising as a result of membership; and
 - (b) is not entitled to a refund, rebate, relief or credit for membership fees paid, or payable, to the Council/Association
- (2) When a member's membership is suspended, the secretary must record in the register of members —
 - (a) that the member's membership is suspended; and
 - (b) the date on which the suspension takes effect; and
 - (c) the period of the suspension.
- (3) When the period of the suspension ends, the secretary must record in the register of members that the member's membership is no longer suspended.

Division 3 — Resolving disputes

17. Terms used

In this Division —

grievance procedure means the procedures set out in this Division;

party to a dispute includes a person —

- (a) who is a party to the dispute; and
- (b) who ceases to be a member within 6 months before the dispute has come to the attention of each party to the dispute.

18. Application of Division

The procedure set out in this Division (the grievance procedure) applies to disputes —

- (a) between members; or
- (b) between one or more members and the Council/Association.

19. Parties to attempt to resolve dispute

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

20. How grievance procedure is started

- (1) If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between themselves within the time required by rule 19, any party to the dispute may start the grievance procedure by giving written notice to the secretary of —
 - (a) the parties to the dispute; and
 - (b) the matters that are the subject of the dispute.
- (2) Within 28 days after the secretary is given the notice, a board meeting must be convened to consider and determine the dispute.
- (3) The secretary must give each party to the dispute written notice of the board meeting at which the dispute is to be considered and determined at least 7 days before the meeting is held.
- (4) The notice given to each party to the dispute must state —
 - (a) when and where the board meeting is to be held; and
 - (b) that the party, or the party's representative, may attend the meeting and will be given a reasonable opportunity to make written or oral (or both written and oral) submissions to the board about the dispute.
- (5) If —
 - (a) the dispute is between one or more members and the Council/Association; and

- (b) any party to the dispute gives written notice to the secretary stating that the party —
 - (i) does not agree to the dispute being determined by the board; and
 - (ii) requests the appointment of a mediator under rule 23, the board must not determine the dispute.

21. Determination of dispute by board

(1) At the board meeting at which a dispute is to be considered and determined, the board must

—

- (a) give each party to the dispute, or the party's representative, a reasonable opportunity to make written or oral (or both written and oral) submissions to the board about the dispute; and
 - (b) give due consideration to any submissions so made; and (c) determine the dispute.
- (2) The board must give each party to the dispute written notice of the board's determination, and the reasons for the determination, within 7 days after the board meeting at which the determination is made.
- (3) A party to the dispute may, within 14 days after receiving notice of the board's determination under sub rule (1) (c), give written notice to the secretary requesting the appointment of a mediator under rule 23.
- (4) If notice is given under sub rule (3), each party to the dispute is a party to the mediation.

Division 4- Mediation

22. Application of Division

- (1) This Division applies if written notice has been given to the secretary requesting the appointment of a mediator —
- (a) by a member under rule 15(7); or
 - (b) by a party to a dispute under rule 20(5)(b)(ii) or 21(3).
- (2) If this Division applies, a mediator must be chosen or appointed under rule 23.

23. Appointment of mediator

- (1) The mediator must be a person chosen —
- (a) if the appointment of a mediator was requested by a member under rule 15(7) — by agreement between the Member and the board; or
 - (b) if the appointment of a mediator was requested by a party to a dispute under rule 20(5)(b)(ii) or 21(3) — by agreement between the parties to the dispute.
- (2) If there is no agreement for the purposes of sub rule (1)(a) or (b), then, subject to sub rules (3) and (4), the board must appoint the mediator.
- (3) The person appointed as mediator by the board must be a person who acts as a mediator for another not-for-profit body, such as a community legal centre, if the appointment of a mediator was requested by —
- (a) a member under rule 15(7); or
 - (b) a party to a dispute under rule 20(5)(b)(ii); or

(c) a party to a dispute under rule 21(3) and the dispute is between one or more members and the Council/Association.

(4) The person appointed as mediator by the board may be a member or former member of the

Council/Association but must not —

(a) have a personal interest in the matter that is the subject of the mediation; or (b) be biased in favour of or against any party to the mediation.

24. Mediation process

(1) The parties to the mediation must attempt in good faith to settle the matter that is the subject of the mediation.

(2) Each party to the mediation must give the mediator a written statement of the issues that need to be considered at the mediation at least 5 days before the mediation takes place.

(3) In conducting the mediation, the mediator must —

(a) give each party to the mediation every opportunity to be heard; and

(b) allow each party to the mediation to give due consideration to any written statement given by another party; and

(c) ensure that natural justice is given to the parties to the mediation throughout the mediation process.

(4) The mediator cannot determine the matter that is the subject of the mediation.

(5) The mediation must be confidential, and any information given at the mediation cannot be used in any other proceedings that take place in relation to the matter that is the subject of the mediation.

(6) The costs of the mediation are to be paid by the party or parties to the mediation that requested the appointment of the mediator.

25. If mediation results in decision to suspend or expel being revoked

If —

(a) mediation takes place because a member whose membership is suspended or who is expelled from the Council/Association gives notice under rule 15(7); and

(b) as the result of the mediation, the decision to suspend the member's membership or expel the member is revoked,

that revocation does not affect the validity of any decision made at a board meeting or general meeting during the period of suspension or expulsion.

PART 5 — BOARD

Division 1 — Powers of Board

26. Board

(1) The board members are the persons who, as the management board of the Council/Association, have the power to manage the affairs of the Council/Association.

(2) Subject to the Act, these rules, the by-laws (if any) and any resolution passed at a general meeting, the board has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for the proper management of the affairs of the Council/Association.

- (3) The board must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Council/Association complies with the Act, these rules and the by-laws (if any).
- (4) “The board will delegate its powers for the day to day management to the Executive Officer who at all times will be responsible to the board in the performance of these duties.

Duties and Responsibilities of Executive Officer

While the governing role of the Board of Management is one of leadership, financial and strategic planning, it is the responsibility of the appointed Executive Officer to manage the day-to-day operations of the Ethnic Communities Council of W.A Incorporated to achieve these strategic ends, as per Rule 26 (4).

The Council’s Executive Officer shall attend Board Meetings at the invitation of the Board and he/she shall not have a vote. The Executive Officer will:

- (i) Present a report of the operations of the service since the last meeting, in a format determined by the Board.
- (ii) Bring to the attention of the Board any issues which require Board consideration.
- (iii) Provide information and advice to assist the Board in its deliberations.
- (iv) Provide feedback to other staff of the considerations and deliberations of the Board.

Besides the above the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Officer include:

- Ensuring the effective implementation of all funding contracts that the Ethnic Communities Council of W.A Incorporated is a party to;
- Controlling resources and being responsible for results, including appointing workers to discharge these responsibilities, and monitoring their performance;
- Identifying and maintaining important relationships between the Ethnic Communities Council of W.A Incorporated and other organisations and individuals, relationships that will support effective and efficient service delivery;
- Developing and implementing operational plans and policies, in consultation with workers, in the areas delegated by the Board of Management to the Executive Officer.

In fulfilling these duties and responsibilities the Executive Officer is accountable to Board of management and will comply with the delegation frameworks it has designed for this purpose. The board can amend these delegations if it so chooses.

Division 2 — Composition of Board and duties of members

27 1. Board Members

- (1) The board members consist of —
 - (a) the office holders of the Council/Association; and
 - (b) Six ordinary board members, preferably one of whom shall be a young person i.e. below 26 years at the date of the election; one from a rural / regional member organisation and one from a new and emerging community.
 - (c) If at least one of the three office bearer positions are not held by a woman then the Vice-President position shall be filled by a woman.
 - (d) A person must not hold more than one position on the Board, at the same time.
- (2) The following are the office holders of the Council/Association —

- a) a President
- b) a Vice President
- c) a Secretary
- d) a Treasurer

- (3) A person may be a board member if the person is — (a) an individual who has reached 18 years of age; and (b) a delegate of an ordinary member.
- (4) A person must not hold 2 or more of the offices mentioned in sub rule (3) at the same time.

28 A: President

(a) The President shall

- (i) Preside at all General meetings and Board meetings.
- (ii) Consult with the Secretary regarding the business to be conducted at each board meeting and general meeting.
- (iii) Have the right to delegate the Chair for all or part of any meeting;
- (iv) Be ex-officio member of all committees, sub-committees, networks and task forces of the Ethnic Communities Council of W.A Incorporated;
- (v) Be the Spokesperson on behalf of the Ethnic Communities Council of W.A Incorporated and communicate the views and policies of the Council/Association in public statements;
- (vi) Have the discretion to delegate the making of public statements to Chairpersons/coordinators of Ethnic Communities Council of W.A Incorporated committees, sub-committees, networks and task forces.
- (vii) Not act in matters where there may be a perceived or real conflict of interest or where the council's policies may be compromised.

28 B: Senior Vice-President

(b) The Senior Vice-President shall

- (i) Be responsible to the Board for the functioning of all committees, sub-committees, networks and task forces of the Ethnic Communities Council of W.A Incorporated;
- (ii) Be ex-officio member of all committees sub-committees, networks and task forces of the Ethnic Communities Council of W.A Incorporated;
- (iii) Generally assist the President;
- (iv) Carry out other tasks delegated;

In the case of incapacity, absence or resignation of the President, the Senior Vice President shall carry out all duties of the President until the President can resume duties or a new President has been elected at an AGM or a SGM.

29. Secretary

The Secretary has the following duties —

- (a) dealing with the Council/Association's s correspondence;
- (b) consulting with the chairperson regarding the business to be conducted at each board meeting and general meeting;

- (c) preparing the notices required for meetings and for the business to be conducted at meetings;
- (d) unless another member is authorised by the board to do so, maintaining on behalf of the Council/Association the register of members, and recording in the register any changes in the membership, as required under section 53(1) of the Act;
- (e) maintaining on behalf of the Council/Association an up-to-date copy of these rules, as required under section 35(1) of the Act;
- (f) unless another member is authorised by the board to do so, maintaining on behalf of the Council/Association a record of board members and other persons authorised to act on behalf of the Council/Association, as required under section 58(2) of the Act;
- (g) ensuring the safe custody of the books of the Council/Association, other than the financial records, financial statements and financial reports, as applicable to the Council/Association;
- (h) maintaining full and accurate minutes of board meetings and general meetings;
- (i) carrying out any other duty given to the secretary under these rules or by the board.
- (j) Duties (a) to (g) are delegated to the Executive Officer who at all times will be responsible to the Secretary in the performance of these duties.

30. Treasurer

The treasurer has the following duties —

- (a) ensuring that any amounts payable to the Council/Association are collected and issuing receipts for those amounts in the Council/Association's name;
- (b) ensuring that any amounts paid to the Council/Association are credited to the appropriate account of the Council/Association, as directed by the board;
- (c) ensuring that any payments to be made by the Council/Association that have been authorised by the board or at a general meeting are made on time;
- (d) ensuring that the Council/Association complies with the relevant requirements of Part 5 of the Act;
- (e) ensuring the safe custody of the Council/Association's financial records, financial statements and financial reports, as applicable to the Council/Association;
- (f) if the Council/Association is a tier 1 association, coordinating the preparation of the Council/Association's financial statements before their submission to the Council/Association's annual general meeting;
- (g) if the Council/Association is a tier 2 association or tier 3 association, coordinating the preparation of the Council/Association's financial report before its submission to the Council/Association's annual general meeting;
- (h) providing any assistance required by an auditor or reviewer conducting an audit or review of the Council/Association's financial statements or financial report under Part 5 Division 5 of the Act;
- (i) carrying out any other duty given to the treasurer under these rules or by the board
- (j) Duties (a) to (e) are delegated to the Executive Officer who at all times will be responsible to the Treasurer in the performance of these duties.

Division 3 — Election of board members and tenure of office

31. How members become Board members

A member becomes a board member if the member — (a) is elected to the board at a general meeting; or

- (b) is appointed by the board to fill a casual vacancy under rule 38
- (c) The board reserves the right to invite the immediate past President to be a member of the board in a non-voting capacity.

32. Nomination of board members

(1) At least 30 days before an annual general meeting, the secretary must send written notice to all the members —

- (a) calling for nominations for election to the board; and
- (b) stating the date by which nominations must be received by the secretary to comply with sub rule (2).

(2) Only financial members (subject to clause 7 (c)) may nominate for membership of the Board.

(3) A member who wishes to be considered for election to the board at the annual general meeting must nominate for election by sending written notice of the nomination to the secretary at least 7 days before the annual general meeting.

(4) The written notice must include a statement by the member or another member in support of the nomination.

(5) Close family members of staff i.e. spouse children and stepchildren are not eligible to contest board positions

(6) A member whose nomination does not comply with this rule is not eligible for election to the board unless the member is nominated under rule 33(2) or 34(2)(b).

33. Removed

34. Election of office bearers and ordinary board members

(1) Office bearers are elected by members at the AGM.

(2) If only one ordinary member delegate has nominated for a position, the Chairperson of the meeting/Returning Officer must declare the delegate elected to the position.

(3) If more than one member has nominated for a position, the chairperson of the meeting/Returning Officer should hold a secret ballot to determine who is/are to be elected as office bearers.

(4) Office bearers are elected for a two-year term. In the case of resignations, the board can appoint a person that meets the constitutional requirements, for the remainder of the term of office.

(5) At the annual general meeting, an election must be held for all vacant board member positions.

(6) If the nominations are less than the number of vacant positions, the chairperson of the meeting may call for nominations from the ordinary members at the meeting.

(7) If the number of nominations is the same as the number of vacant positions, the chairperson of the meeting must declare the Members elected to the Board.

(8) If the number of members who have nominated for a position, exceed the number of vacant positions, the chairperson of the meeting/Returning Officer should hold a secret ballot to determine who is/are to be elected as board members.

35. Term of office

- (9) The term of office of a board member begins when the member —
- (a) is elected at an annual general meeting or under sub rule 36(3)(b); or (b) is appointed to fill a casual vacancy under rule 38.
 - (10) Subject to rule 37, a board member holds office until the positions on the board are declared vacant at the next annual general meeting.
 - (11) A board member may be re-elected.

36. Resignation and removal from office

- (1) A board member may resign from the board by written notice given to the secretary or, if the resigning member is the secretary, given to the chairperson.
- (2) The resignation takes effect —
 - (a) when the notice is received by the secretary or chairperson; or (b) if a later time is stated in the notice, at the later time.
- (3) At a general meeting, the Council/Association may by resolution —
 - (a) remove a board member from office; and
 - (b) elect a member who is eligible under rule 27(4) to fill the vacant position.
- (4) A board member who is the subject of a proposed resolution under sub rule (3)(a) may make written representations (of a reasonable length) to the secretary or chairperson and may ask that the representations be provided to the members.
- (5) The secretary or chairperson may give a copy of the representations to each member or, if they are not so given, the board member may require them to be read out at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be considered.

37. When membership of board ceases

- A person ceases to be a board member if the person —
- (1) dies or otherwise ceases to be a member; or
 - (2) resigns from the board or is removed from office under rule 36; or
 - (3) becomes ineligible to accept an appointment or act as a board member under section 39 of the Act;
 - (4) becomes permanently unable to act as a board member because of a mental or physical disability; or
 - (5) fails to attend 3 consecutive Board meetings, of which the person has been given notice, without having notified the Board that the person will be unable to attend.

38. Filling casual vacancies

- (1) The board may appoint a member who is eligible under rule 27(4) to fill a position on the board that —
 - (a) has become vacant under rule 37; or
 - (b) was not filled by election at the most recent annual general meeting or under rule 36(3)(b).
- (2) If the position of secretary becomes vacant, the board must appoint a member who is eligible under rule 27(4) to fill the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- (3) Subject to the requirement for a quorum under rule 45, the board may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

- (4) If there are fewer board members than required for a quorum under rule 45, the board may act only for the purpose of —
- (a) appointing board members under this rule; or (b) convening a general meeting.

39. Validity of acts

The acts of a board or *subcommittee*, or of a board member or member of a *subcommittee*, are valid despite any defect that may afterwards be discovered in the election, appointment or qualification of a board member or member of a *subcommittee*.

40. Payments to board members

- (1) In this rule — *board member* includes a member of a *subcommittee*; *board meeting* includes a meeting of a *subcommittee*.
- (2) A board member is entitled to be paid out of the funds of the Council/Association for any out-of-pocket expenses for travel and accommodation properly incurred — (a) in attending a board meeting or
 - (b) in attending a general meeting; or
 - (c) otherwise in connection with the Council/Association's business.

Division 4 — Board meetings

41. Board meetings

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

42 Notice of board meetings

- (1) Notice of each board meeting must be given to each board member at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting.
- (2) The notice must state the date, time and place of the meeting and must describe the general nature of the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- (3) Unless sub rule (4) applies, the only business that may be conducted at the meeting is the business described in the notice.
- (4) Urgent business that has not been described in the notice may be conducted at the meeting if the board members at the meeting unanimously agree to treat that business as urgent

43 Procedure and order of business

- (1) The President or, in the President's absence, the Senior Vice President must preside as chairperson of each board meeting.
- (2) If the President and the Senior Vice President are absent or are unwilling to act as chairperson of a meeting, the board members at the meeting must choose one of them to act as chairperson of the meeting.
- (3) The procedure to be followed at a board meeting must be determined from time to time by the board.
- (4) The order of business at a board meeting may be determined by the board members at the meeting.

- (5) A member or other person who is not a board member may attend a board meeting if invited to do so by the board.
- (6) A person invited under sub rule (5) to attend a board meeting —
 - (a) has no right to any agenda, minutes or other document circulated at the meeting; and
 - (b) must not comment about any matter discussed at the meeting unless invited by the board to do so; and
 - (c) cannot vote on any matter that is to be decided at the meeting.

44 Use of technology to be present at board meetings

- (1) The presence of a board member at a board meeting need not be by attendance in person but may be by that board member and each other board member at the meeting being simultaneously in contact by telephone or other means of instantaneous communication.
- (2) A member who participates in a board meeting as allowed under sub rule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, the member is taken to have voted in person.

45. Quorum for board meetings (highlighted section below is taken from our current constitution)

(1) Subject to rule 38(4), no business is to be conducted at a board meeting unless a quorum is present. The quorum for board meetings shall be 50% plus 1 of the total board. However, where one or more board members are on approved leave of absence then the fall-back quorum requirement shall be satisfied by the attendance of 50% + 1 of the remaining board members. Leave of absence should be sought in writing and addressed to the President or, in the President's absence, the Senior Vice President.

(2) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a board meeting —

- (a) in the case of a special meeting — the meeting lapses; or
- (b) otherwise, the meeting is adjourned to the same time, day and place in the following week.

(3) If —

- (a) a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the commencement time of a board meeting held under sub rule (2)(b); and
- (b) at least 2 board members are present at the meeting, those members present are taken to constitute a quorum.

46 Voting at board meetings

- (1) Each board member present at a board meeting has one vote on any question arising at the meeting.
- (2) A motion is carried if a majority of the board members present at the board meeting vote in favour of the motion.
- (3) If the votes are divided equally on a question, the chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (4) A vote may take place by the board members present indicating their agreement or disagreement or by a show of hands, unless the board decides that a secret ballot is needed to determine a particular question.
- (5) If a secret ballot is needed, the chairperson of the meeting must decide how the ballot is to be conducted.

(6) Decisions taken by the Board will be binding on all members of the Board and the Board will express the views of the Council/Association as indicated by the Minutes of the meetings and policy manuals governing the organisation.

47. Minutes of board meetings

- (1) The board must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each board meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the following —
 - (a) the names of the board members present at the meeting;
 - (b) the name of any person attending the meeting under rule 43(5);
 - (c) the business considered at the meeting;
 - (d) any motion on which a vote is taken at the meeting and the result of the vote.
- (3) The minutes of a board meeting must be entered in the Council/Association's minute book within 30 days after the meeting is held.
- (4) The chairperson must ensure that the minutes of a board meeting are reviewed and signed as correct by —
 - (a) the chairperson of the meeting; or
 - (b) the chairperson of the next board meeting.
- (5) When the minutes of a board meeting have been signed as correct they are, until the contrary is proved, evidence that —
 - (a) the meeting to which the minutes relate was duly convened and held; and
 - (b) the matters recorded as having taken place at the meeting took place as recorded; and (c) any appointment purportedly made at the meeting was validly made.

Division 5 — Subcommittees and subsidiary offices

48. Subcommittee and subsidiary offices

- (1) To help the board in the conduct of the Council/Association's business, the board may, in writing, do either or both of the following —
 - (a) appoint one or more subcommittees including an Executive Committee comprising the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer and the Executive Officer in an ex Officio non-voting capacity. All decisions made by the Executive Committee have to be endorsed by the Board;
 - (b) create one or more subsidiary offices and appoint people to those offices.
- (2) A subcommittee may consist of the number of people, whether or not members, that the board considers appropriate.
- (3) A person may be appointed to a subsidiary office whether or not the person is a member.
- (4) Subject to any directions given by the board —
 - (a) a subcommittee may meet and conduct business as it considers appropriate; and
 - (b) the holder of a subsidiary office may carry out the functions given to the holder as the holder considers appropriate.

49. Delegation to subcommittees and holders of subsidiary offices

- (1) In this rule — ***non-delegable duty*** means a duty imposed on the board by the Act or another written law.
- (2) The board may, in writing, delegate to a subcommittee or the holder of a subsidiary office the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty of the board other than — (a) the power to delegate; and (b) a non-delegable duty.
- (3) A power or duty, the exercise or performance of which has been delegated to a subcommittee or the holder of a subsidiary office under this rule, may be exercised or performed by the subcommittee or holder in accordance with the terms of the delegation.
- (4) The delegation may be made subject to any conditions, qualifications, limitations or exceptions that the board specifies in the document by which the delegation is made.
- (5) The delegation does not prevent the board from exercising or performing at any time the power or duty delegated.
- (6) Any act or thing done by a subcommittee or by the holder of a subsidiary office, under the delegation has the same force and effect as if it had been done by the board.
- (7) The board may, in writing, amend or revoke the delegation.

PART 6 — GENERAL MEETINGS OF COUNCIL/ASSOCIATION

Rule 50 Annual general meeting

- (1) The board must determine the date, time and place of the annual general meeting.
- (2) If it is proposed to hold the annual general meeting more than 6 months after the end of the Council/Association's financial year, the secretary must apply to the Commissioner for permission under section 50(3)(b) of the Act within 4 months after the end of the financial year.
- (3) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting is as follows —
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then if the minutes of that meeting have not yet been confirmed; (b) to receive and consider —
 - (i) the board's annual report on the Council/Association's activities during the preceding financial year; and
 - (ii) if the Council/Association is a tier 1 association, the financial statements of the Council/Association for the preceding financial year presented under Part 5 of the Act; and
 - (iii) if the Council/Association is a tier 2 association or a tier 3 association, the financial report of the Association for the preceding financial year presented under Part 5 of the Act;
 - (iv) if required to be presented for consideration under Part 5 of the Act, a copy of the report of the review or auditor's report on the financial statements or financial report;
 - (c) to elect the office holders of the Council/Association and other board members;
 - (d) if applicable, to appoint or remove a reviewer or auditor of the Council/Association in accordance with the Act;
 - (e) to confirm or vary the entrance fees, subscriptions and other amounts (if any) to be paid by members.

(4) Any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these rules may be conducted at the annual general meeting.

51. Special general meetings

- (1) The board may convene a special general meeting.
- (2) The board must convene a special general meeting if at least 20% of the members require a special general meeting to be convened.
- (3) The members requiring a special general meeting to be convened must — (a) make the requirement by written notice given to the secretary; and (b) state in the notice the business to be considered at the meeting; and (c) each sign the notice.
- (4) The special general meeting must be convened within 28 days after notice is given under sub rule (3)(a).
- (5) If the board does not convene a special general meeting within that 28 day period, the members making the requirement (or any of them) may convene the special general meeting.
- (6) A special general meeting convened by members under sub rule (5) —
 - (a) must be held within 3 months after the date the original requirement was made; and
 - (b) may only consider the business stated in the notice by which the requirement was made.
- (7) The Association must reimburse any reasonable expenses incurred by the members convening a special general meeting under sub rule (5).

52. Notice of general meetings

- (1) The secretary or, in the case of a special general meeting convened under rule 51(5), the members convening the meeting, must give to each 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.
- (2) The notice must —
 - (a) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
 - (b) indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting; and
 - (c) if the meeting is the annual general meeting, include the names of the members who have nominated for election to the board under rule 32(2); and
 - (d) if a special resolution is proposed —
 - (i) set out the wording of the proposed resolution as required by section 51(4) of the Act; and
 - (ii) state that the resolution is intended to be proposed as a special resolution; and (iii) comply with rule 53(7).

53. Proxies

- (1) Subject to sub rule (2), a delegate of an ordinary member may appoint an individual who is a member of his/her organisation as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at a general meeting.
- (2) A delegate of an ordinary member may be appointed the proxy for not more than 1 other delegate of ordinary members.
- (3) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the delegate/President/Chairperson of the ordinary member making the appointment.

- (4) The delegate of the ordinary member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on his or her behalf.
- (5) If no instructions are given to the proxy, the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as the proxy sees fit.
- (6) The member must use the appointment of proxy form approved by the board
- (7) Notice of a general meeting given to an ordinary member under rule 52 must

—

- (a) state that the member may appoint a proxy for the meeting; and
 - (b) include a copy of any form that the board has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (8) A form appointing a proxy must be given to the secretary before the commencement of the general meeting for which the proxy is appointed.
- (9) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Council/Association not later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

54. Use of technology to be present at general meetings

- (1) The presence of a member at a general meeting need not be by attendance in person but may be by that member and each other member at the meeting being simultaneously in contact by telephone or other means of instantaneous communication.
- (2) A member who participates in a general meeting as allowed under sub rule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, the member is taken to have voted in person.

55. Presiding member and quorum for general meetings

- (1) The chairperson or, in the chairperson's absence, the deputy chairperson must preside as chairperson of each general meeting.
- (2) If the chairperson and deputy chairperson are absent or are unwilling to act as chairperson of a general meeting, the board members at the meeting must choose one of them to act as chairperson of the meeting.
- (3) No business is to be conducted at a general meeting unless a quorum is present. The quorum at any General Meeting shall be 15% of the financial Members, excluding Associate members
- (4) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting —
 - (a) in the case of a special general meeting — the meeting lapses; or
 - (b) in the case of the annual general meeting — the meeting is adjourned to —
 - (i) the same time and day in the following week; and
 - (ii) the same place, unless the chairperson specifies another place at the time of the adjournment or written notice of another place is given to the members before the day to which the meeting is adjourned.
- (5) If —
 - (a) a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the commencement time of an annual general meeting held under sub rule (4)(b); and
 - (b) at least 2 ordinary members are present at the meeting, those members present are taken to constitute a quorum.

56. Adjournment of general meeting

- (1) The chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of a majority of the ordinary members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting to another time at the same place or at another place.
- (2) Without limiting sub rule (1), a meeting may be adjourned —
 - (a) if there is insufficient time to deal with the business at hand; or
 - (b) to give the members more time to consider an item of business.
- (3) No business may be conducted on the resumption of an adjourned meeting other than the business that remained unfinished when the meeting was adjourned.
- (4) Notice of the adjournment of a meeting under this rule is not required unless the meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, in which case notice of the meeting must be given in accordance with rule 52.

57. Voting at general meeting

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting —
 - (a) subject to sub rule (6), each ordinary member has one vote unless the member may also vote on behalf of a body corporate under sub rule (2); and
 - (b) ordinary members may vote personally or by proxy.
- (2) An ordinary member that is a body corporate may, in writing, appoint an individual, whether or not the individual is a member, to vote on behalf of the body corporate on any question at a particular general meeting or at any general meeting, as specified in the document by which the appointment is made.
- (3) A copy of the document by which the appointment is made must be given to the secretary before any general meeting to which the appointment applies.
- (4) The appointment has effect until —
 - (a) the end of any general meeting to which the appointment applies; or
 - (b) the appointment is revoked by the body corporate and written notice of the revocation is given to the secretary.
- (5) Except in the case of a special resolution, a motion is carried if a majority of the ordinary members present at a general meeting vote in favour of the motion. “In the case of a special resolution, a motion is carried only if 75% of the ordinary members present, vote in favour of the motion.
- (6) If votes are divided equally on a question, the chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (7) If the question is whether or not to confirm the minutes of a previous general meeting, only members who were present at that meeting may vote.
- (8) For a person to be eligible to vote at a general meeting as an ordinary member, or on behalf of an ordinary member that is a body corporate under sub rule (2), the ordinary member —
 - (a) must have been an ordinary member at the time notice of the meeting was given under rule 52; and
 - (b) must have paid any fee or other money payable to the Council/Association by the member.

58. When special resolutions are required

- (1) A special resolution is required if it is proposed at a general meeting —
 - (a) to affiliate the Council/Association with another body; or

- (b) to request the Commissioner to apply to the State Administrative Tribunal under section 109 of the Act for the appointment of a statutory manager.
- (2) Sub rule (1) does not limit the matters in relation to which a special resolution may be proposed.

59. Determining whether resolution carried

- (1) In this rule — *poll* means the process of voting in relation to a matter that is conducted in writing.
- (2) Subject to sub rule (4), the chairperson of a general meeting may, on the basis of general agreement or disagreement or by a show of hands, declare that a resolution has been —
 - (a) carried; or
 - (b) carried unanimously; or
 - (c) carried by a particular majority; or (d) lost.
- (3) If the resolution is a special resolution, the declaration under sub rule (2) must identify the resolution as a special resolution.
- (4) If a poll is demanded on any question by the chairperson of the meeting or by at least 3 other ordinary members present in person or by proxy —
 - (a) the poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the chairperson;
 - (b) the chairperson must declare the determination of the resolution on the basis of the poll.
- (5) If a poll is demanded on the election of the chairperson or on a question of an adjournment, the poll must be taken immediately.
- (6) If a poll is demanded on any other question, the poll must be taken before the close of the meeting at a time determined by the chairperson.
- (7) A declaration under sub rule (2) or (4) must be entered in the minutes of the meeting, and the entry is, without proof of the voting in relation to the resolution, evidence of how the resolution was determined.

60. Minutes of general meeting

- (1) The secretary, or a person authorised by the board from time to time, must take and keep minutes of each general meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- (3) In addition, the minutes of each annual general meeting must record —
 - (a) the names of the ordinary members attending the meeting; and
 - (b) any proxy forms given to the chairperson of the meeting under rule 53(8); and
 - (c) the financial statements or financial report presented at the meeting, as referred to in rule 50(3)(b)(ii) or (iii); and
 - (d) any report of the review or auditor's report on the financial statements or financial report presented at the meeting, as referred to in rule 50(3)(b)(iv).
- (4) The minutes of a general meeting must be entered in the Council/Association's minute book within 30 days after the meeting is held.
- (5) The chairperson must ensure that the minutes of a general meeting are reviewed and signed as correct by —
 - (a) the chairperson of the meeting; or

- (b) the chairperson of the next general meeting.
- (6) When the minutes of a general meeting have been signed as correct they are, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, taken to be proof that —
 - (a) the meeting to which the minutes relate was duly convened and held; and
 - (b) the matters recorded as having taken place at the meeting took place as recorded; and (c) any election or appointment purportedly made at the meeting was validly made.

PART 7 — FINANCIAL MATTERS

61. Source of funds

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

62. Control of funds

- (1) The Council/Association must open an account in the name of the Council/Association with a financial institution from which all expenditure of the Council/Association is made and into which all funds received by the Council/Association are deposited.
- (2) Subject to any restrictions imposed at a general meeting, the board may approve expenditure on behalf of the Council/Association.
- (3) The board may authorise the Executive Officer to expend funds on behalf of the

Council/Association up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the board for each item on which the funds are expended. The board should be advised of such expenses after they are made.

- (4) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments of the Association must be signed by —
 - (a) 2 board members; or
 - (b) one board member and a person authorised by the board.
 - (c) Executive Officer and a person authorised by the board
- (5) All funds of the Council/Association must be deposited into the Council/Association's account within 5 working days.

63. Financial statements and financial reports

- (1) For each financial year, the board must ensure that the requirements imposed on the Council/Association under Part 5 of the Act relating to the financial statements or financial report of the Association are met.
- (2) Without limiting sub rule (1), those requirements include —
 - (a) if the Council/Association is a tier 1 association, the preparation of the financial statements; and
 - (b) if the Council/Association is a tier 2 association or tier 3 association, the preparation of the financial report; and
 - (c) if required, the review or auditing of the financial statements or financial report, as applicable; and
 - (d) the presentation to the annual general meeting of the financial statements or financial report, as applicable; and

- (e) if required, the presentation to the annual general meeting of the copy of the report of the review or auditor's report, as applicable, on the financial statements or financial report.

PART 8 — GENERAL MATTERS

64. By-laws

- (1) The Council/Association may, by resolution at a general meeting, make, amend or revoke bylaws.
- (2) By-laws may —
 - (a) provide for the rights and obligations that apply to any classes of associate membership approved under rule 8(2); and
 - (b) impose restrictions on the board's powers, including the power to dispose of the Council/Association's assets; and
 - (c) impose requirements relating to the financial reporting and financial accountability of the association and the auditing of the Council/Association's accounts; and
 - (d) provide for any other matter the Council/Association considers necessary or convenient to be dealt with in the by-laws.
- (3) A by-law is of no effect to the extent that it is inconsistent with the Act, the regulations or these rules.
- (4) Without limiting sub rule (3), a by-law made for the purposes of sub rule (2)(c) may only impose requirements on the Council/Association that are additional to, and do not restrict, a requirement imposed on the Council/Association under Part 5 of the Act.
- (5) At the request of a member, the Council/Association must make a copy of the by-laws available for inspection by the member.

65. Executing documents and common seal

- (1) The Council/Association may execute a document without using a common seal if the document is signed by —
 - (a) 2 board members; or
 - (b) one board member and a person authorised by the board.
- (2) If the Council/Association has a common seal —
 - (a) the name of the Council/Association must appear in legible characters on the common seal; and
 - (b) a document may only be sealed with the common seal by the authority of the board and in the presence of —
 - (i) 2 board members; or
 - (ii) one board member and a person authorised by the board, and each of them is to sign the document to attest that the document was sealed in their presence.
- (3) The secretary must make a written record of each use of the common seal.
- (4) The common seal must be kept in the custody of the secretary or another board member authorised by the board.

66. Giving notices to members

- (1) In this rule — **recorded means** recorded in the register of members.
- (2) A notice or other document that is to be given to a member under these rules is taken not to have been given to the member unless it is in writing and —
 - (a) delivered by hand to the recorded address of the member; or
 - (b) sent by prepaid post to the recorded postal address of the member; or

(c) sent by facsimile or electronic transmission to an appropriate recorded number or recorded electronic address of the member.

67. Custody of books and securities

- (1) Subject to sub rule (2), the books and any securities of the Council/Association must be kept in the secretary's custody or under the secretary's control.
- (2) The financial records and, as applicable, the financial statements or financial reports of the Council/Association must be kept in the treasurer's custody or under the treasurer's control.
- (3) Sub rule s (1) and (2) have effect except as otherwise decided by the board.
- (4) The books of the Council/Association must be retained for at least 7 years.

68. Record of office holders

The record of board members and other persons authorised to act on behalf of the Council/Association that is required to be maintained under section 58(2) of the Act must be kept in the secretary's custody or under the secretary's control.

69. Inspection of records and documents

- (1) Sub rule (2) applies to a member who wants to inspect —
 - (a) the register of members under section 54(1) of the Act; or
 - (b) the record of the names and addresses of board members, and other persons authorised to act on behalf of the Council/Association, under section 58(3) of the Act; or
 - (c) any other record or document of the association. The right of inspection does not extend to books and documents of a confidential nature and/or relating to the staff and clients of the Centre or which remain protected being 'commercial in confidence'
- (2) The member must contact the secretary to make the necessary arrangements for the inspection.
- (3) The inspection must be free of charge.
- (4) If the member wants to inspect a document that records the minutes of a board meeting, the right to inspect that document is subject to any decision the board has made about minutes of board meetings generally, or the minutes of a specific board meeting, being available for inspection by members.
- (5) The member may make a copy of or take an extract from a record or document referred to in sub rule (1)(c) but does not have a right to remove the record or document for that purpose.
- (6) The member must not use or disclose information in a record or document referred to in sub rule (1)(c) except for a purpose —
 - (a) that is directly connected with the affairs of the Council/Association; or
 - (b) that is related to complying with a requirement of the Act.

70. Publication by board members of statements about Council/Association business prohibited

A board member must not publish, or cause to be published, any statement about the business conducted by the Council/Association at a general meeting or board meeting unless —

- (a) the board member has been authorised to do so at a board meeting;
- and

- (b) the authority given to the board member has been recorded in the minutes of the board meeting at which it was given.

71. Distribution of surplus property on cancellation of incorporation or winding up

(1) In this rule — **surplus property**, in relation to the Council/Association, means property remaining after satisfaction of —

- (a) the debts and liabilities of the Council/Association; and
- (b) the costs, charges and expenses of winding up or cancelling the incorporation of the

Council/Association, but does not include books relating to the management of the Council/Association.

(2) On the cancellation of the incorporation or the winding up of the Council/Association, its surplus property must be distributed as determined by special resolution by reference to the persons mentioned in section 24(1) of the Act.

*******End of Constitution*******