

# Rules of Foster Carers Association of Tasmania Inc

## Version 18 October 2013

### 1. Name of Association

- (a) The name of the association is as follows: Foster Carers Association of Tasmania Inc.
- (b) The basic objectives of the Association are:
- (1) to provide support to all carers/members who support children living in out of home care which include foster carers, special contract carers, group home carers, Kinship carers, adoptive families, and the carers of all private agencies;
  - (2) to provide opportunities for contact between carers/members who work with children/young people in out of home care
  - (3) to keep members informed regarding:
    - (a) Government and Departmental policy and practice pertaining to the alternative care of children;
    - (b) benefits and allowances;
    - (c) to disseminate information to broad membership;
  - (4) to facilitate communications between Government Departments at Sectional, Regional and Central levels, Non Government Organizations and all carers;
  - (5) to develop a close working relationship with the Department of Health and Human Services at Sectional, Regional and Central levels;
  - (6) to safeguard and promote the interests of all children and families involved in out of home care; and
  - (7) to assist government to develop successful policy and procedures in out of home care in both consultative and formulate roles.

### 2. Interpretation

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires –  
**accounting records** has the same meaning as in the Act;  
**Act** means the [Associations Incorporation Act 1964](#);  
**annual general meeting** means an annual general meeting of the Association held under [rule 11](#);  
**Association** means the association referred to in rule 1;  
**association** has the same meaning as in the Act;  
**auditor** means the person appointed as the auditor of the Association [under rule 9](#);  
**authorised deposit-taking institution** means a body corporate that is an authorised deposit-taking institution for the purposes of the *Banking Act 1959* of the Commonwealth;

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**basic objects of the Association** means the objects and purposes of the Association as in [rule 1\(b\)](#);

**committee** means the committee of management referred to in [rule 21](#);

**financial year** has the same meaning as in the Act;

**general meeting** means –

(a) an annual general meeting; or

(b) a special general meeting;

**North region** means the area of Tasmania with the telephone number prefix “(03) 63”;

**Northern members** are members whose principle place of residence is in the North region;

**North West region** means the area of Tasmania with the telephone number prefix “(03) 64”;

**North Western members** are members whose principle place of residence is in the North West region;

**officer of the Association** means a person elected as an officer of the Association at an annual general meeting or appointed as an officer of the Association under [rule 22\(5\)](#);

**ordinary business of an annual general meeting** means the business specified in [rule 11\(5\)](#);

**ordinary committee member** means a member of the committee other than the President of the Association;

**principal place of residence**, means that place where a person principally resides;

**regions** means the North, South and North West regions respectively or collectively as the case may be;

**South region** means the area of Tasmania with the telephone number prefix “(03) 62”;

**Southern members** are members whose principle place of residence is in the South region;

**special committee meeting** means a meeting of the committee that is convened under [rule 26\(2\)](#) by the president or any 4 of the members of the committee;

**special general meeting** means a meeting of the Association, other than an annual general meeting, convened under [rule 12](#); and

**special resolution** means a resolution passed by a majority of not less than three-quarters of such members of the Association entitled under these rules to vote as may be present in person at a general meeting of which notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution was given in accordance with these rules.

### 3. Association's office

The office of the Association is the current office of the Association or at any other place the committee determines

### 4. Objects and purposes of Association

The objects and purposes of the Association consist of the basic objects of the Association and the following objects and purposes:

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- (a) the purchase, taking on lease or in exchange, hire or other acquisition of any real or personal property necessary or convenient for any of the objects or purposes of the Association;
- (b) the purchase, sale or supply of, or other dealing in, goods;
- (c) the construction, maintenance or alteration of any building or works necessary or convenient for any of the objects or purposes of the Association;
- (d) the acceptance of a gift for any of the objects or purposes of the Association;
- (e) the taking of any step the committee or the members of the Association at a general meeting determine expedient for the purpose of procuring contributions to the funds of the Association;
- (f) the printing or publication of any newspaper, periodical, book, leaflet or other document the committee or the members of the Association at a general meeting determine desirable for the promotion of any of the objects or purposes of the Association;
- (g) the borrowing and raising of money in any manner and on terms –
  - (i) the committee thinks fit; or
  - (ii) approved or directed by resolution passed at a general meeting;
- (h) subject to the provisions of the [\*Trustee Act 1898\*](#), the investment, in any manner the committee determines, of any money of the Association not immediately required for any of the objects or purposes of the Association;
- (i) the making of a gift, subscription or donation to any of the funds, authorities or institutions to which *section 78A of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* of the Commonwealth relates;
- (j) the establishment and support, or aiding in the establishment and support, of associations, institutions, funds, trusts, schemes or conveniences calculated to benefit servants or past servants of the Association and their dependants, and the granting of pensions, allowances or other benefits to servants or past servants of the Association and their dependants, and the making of payments towards insurance in relation to any of those purposes;
- (k) the establishment and support, or aiding in the establishment or support, of any other association formed for any of the basic objects of the Association;

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- (l) the purchase, or acquisition, and the undertaking of all or part of the property, assets, liabilities or engagements of any association with which the Association is amalgamated in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the rules of the Association;
- (m) the doing of any lawful thing incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects or purposes of the Association.

**5. Membership of Association**

- (1) A person who is approved for membership in accordance with this rule is eligible to be a member of the Association on payment of the annual subscription specified in [rule 30](#).
- (2) A person who is not a member of the Association at the time of adoption of these rules is not to be admitted as a member of the Association unless –
  - (a) the person is approved for membership in accordance with [subrule \(3\)](#); and
  - (b) the person is approved for membership by the committee.
- (2A) The committee may only approve memberships to people who are:
  - (i) 18 years of age;
  - (ii) have their principal place of residence in Tasmania; and
  - (iii) who is a foster carer, kinship carer, special contact carer, group home carer, adoptive parent, provides alternative care or otherwise provides or is in the committee’s opinion sufficiently interested in the objects of the association to warrant membership.
- (3) An application of a person for membership is to be –
  - (a) by the written consent of the person applying on the FCAT membership form; and
  - (b) lodged with the public officer of the Association.
- (4) Deleted.
- (5) As soon as practicable after the receipt of an application, the public officer is to refer the application to the committee.
- (6) If an application is approved by the committee, the public officer is to –
  - (a) notify the applicant, in writing, that the applicant has been approved for membership of the Association; and
  - (b) on receipt of the amount payable by the applicant as the first annual subscription, enter the applicant's name in a register of members.

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- (7) A member of the Association may resign by serving on the public officer a written notice of resignation.
- (8) On receipt of a notice from a member of the Association under [subrule \(7\)](#), the public officer is to remove the name of the member from the register of members.
- (9) A person –
- (a) becomes a member of the Association when his or her name is entered in the register of members; and
  - (b) ceases to be a member of the Association when his or her name is removed from the register of members.
- (10) Any right, privilege or obligation of a person as a member of the Association –
- (a) is not capable of being transferred to another person; and
  - (b) terminates on the cessation of the membership.
- (11) If the Association is wound up, each member of the Association, and each person who was a member of the Association within the period of 12 months immediately preceding the commencement of the winding-up, is liable to contribute –
- (a) to the assets of the Association for payment of the liabilities of the Association; and
  - (b) for the costs, charges and expenses of the winding-up; and
  - (c) for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves.
- (12) Any liability under [subrule \(11\)](#) is not to exceed the value of the annual subscription for members.
- (13) Despite [subrule \(11\)](#), a former member of the Association is not liable to contribute under that sub rule in respect of any liability of the Association incurred after he or she ceased to be a member.
- (14) A member may be approved by the members at a general meeting as a “life member” of the Association in order to recognise their outstanding service to the vocation of foster care.
- (15) A nominee for life membership will be made by a written nomination to the committee, and if approved by the committee, then the nomination will be considered by the membership at a general meeting.

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- (16) A member who is granted life membership will not be obliged to pay the annual subscription otherwise due under these rules, but in all other respects will have rights and obligations of a member.

**6. Income and Property of Association**

- (1) The income and property of the Association is to be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects and purposes of the Association.
- (2) No portion of the income or property of the Association is to be paid or transferred to any member of the Association unless the payment or transfer is made in accordance with this rule.
- (3) The Association may –
- (a) pay a servant or member of the Association –
    - (i) remuneration in return for services rendered to the Association, or for goods supplied to the Association, in the ordinary course of business of the servant or member; or
    - (ii) remuneration that constitutes a reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the servant or member for any of the objects or purposes of the Association; or
    - (iii) interest at a rate not exceeding 7.25% on money lent to the Association by the servant or member; or
    - (iv) a reasonable amount by way of rent for premises, or a part of premises, let to the Association by the servant or member; and
  - (c) pay a member of the committee remuneration in return for carrying out the functions of a member of the committee; and
  - (d) pay a member of a subcommittee remuneration in return for carrying out the functions of a member of the subcommittee; and
  - (e) if so requested by or on behalf of any other association, organisation or body, appoint or nominate a member of the Association to an office in that other association, organisation or body.
- (4) Despite [subrule \(3\)\(a\)](#), [\(b\)](#) and [\(c\)](#), the Association is not to pay a person any amount under that subrule unless the Association or committee has first approved that payment.
- (5) Despite [subrule \(3\)\(d\)](#), the Association is not to appoint or nominate a member of the Association under that subrule to an office in respect of which remuneration is payable unless the Association or committee has first approved –
- (a) that appointment or nomination; and
  - (b) the receipt of that remuneration by that member.

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**7. Accounts of receipts and expenditure**

- (1) True accounts are to be kept of the following:
  - (a) each receipt or payment of money by the Association and the matter in respect of which the money was received or paid;
  - (b) each asset or liability of the Association.
- (2) The accounts are to be open to inspection by the members of the Association at any reasonable time, and in any reasonable manner, determined by the committee.
- (3) The treasurer of the Association is to keep all accounting books, and general records and records of receipts and payments, connected with the business of the Association in the form and manner the committee determines.
- (4) The accounts, books and records are to be kept at the Association's office or at any other place the committee determines.

**8. Banking and finance**

- (1) On behalf of the Association, the treasurer of the Association is to –
  - (a) receive any money paid to the Association; and
  - (b) immediately after receiving the money, issue an official receipt in respect of the money; and
  - (c) cause the money to be paid into the account opened under subrule (2) as soon as practicable after it is received.
- (2) The committee is to open with an authorised deposit-taking institution an account in the name of the Association.
- (3) The committee may –
  - (a) receive from an authorised deposit-taking institution a cheque drawn by the Association on any of the Association's accounts with the authorised deposit-taking institution; and
  - (b) release or indemnify the authorised deposit-taking institution from or against any claim, or action or other proceeding, arising directly or indirectly out of the drawing of that cheque.
- (4) Except with the authority of the committee, a payment of an amount exceeding \$100 is not to be made from the funds of the Association otherwise than by cheque drawn on the Association's account, or an electronic funds

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transfer. The committee may grant authority to use other forms of transaction provided the committee is satisfied that there is sufficient self creation of a record of the transaction.

- (5) The committee may provide the treasurer with an amount of money to meet urgent expenditure, subject to any conditions the committee may impose in relation to the expenditure.
- (6) A cheque is not to be drawn on the Association's account except for the purpose of making a payment that has been authorised by the committee.
- (7) A cheque, draft, bill of exchange, promissory note or other negotiable instrument is to be –
  - (a) signed by the treasurer or, in the treasurer's absence, by any other member, or members, of the committee the committee nominates for that purpose; and
  - (b) countersigned by the public officer of the Association.

**9. Auditor**

- (1) At each annual general meeting, the members of the Association present at the meeting are to appoint a person as the auditor of the Association.
- (2) If an auditor is not appointed at an annual general meeting under subrule (1), the committee is to appoint a person as the auditor of the Association as soon as practicable after that annual general meeting.
- (3) The auditor is to hold office until the next annual general meeting and is eligible for re-appointment.
- (4) The first auditor –
  - (a) may be appointed by the committee before the first annual general meeting; and
  - (b) if so appointed, holds office until the first annual general meeting unless earlier removed by a resolution of the members of the Association at a general meeting.
- (5) If the first auditor is appointed by the committee under [subrule \(4\)\(a\)](#) and subsequently removed at a general meeting under [subrule \(4\)\(b\)](#), the members of the Association, at that general meeting, may appoint an auditor to hold office until the first annual general meeting.
- (6) Except as provided in [subrule \(4\)\(b\)](#), the auditor may only be removed from office by special resolution.



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- (7) If a casual vacancy occurs in the office of auditor, the committee is to appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the next annual general meeting.

**10. Audit of accounts**

- (1) The auditor is to audit the financial affairs of the Association at least once in each financial year of the Association.
- (2) The auditor, after auditing the financial affairs of the Association for a particular financial year of the Association, is to –
- (a) certify as to the correctness of the accounts of the Association; and
  - (b) at the next annual general meeting, provide a written report to the members of the Association present at that meeting.
- (3) In the report and in certifying to the accounts, the auditor is to –
- (a) specify the information, if any, that he or she has required under [subrule \(5\)\(b\)](#) and obtained; and
  - (b) state whether, in his or her opinion, the accounts exhibit a true and correct view of the financial position of the Association according to the information at his or her disposal; and
  - (c) state whether the rules relating to the administration of the funds of the Association have been observed.
- (4) The public officer of the Association is to deliver to the auditor a list of all the accounting records, books and accounts of the Association.
- (5) The auditor may –
- (a) have access to the accounting records, books and accounts of the Association; and
  - (b) require from any servant of the Association any information the auditor considers necessary for the performance of his or her duties; and
  - (c) employ any person to assist in auditing the financial affairs of the Association; and
  - (d) examine any member of the committee, or any servant of the Association, in relation to the accounting records, books and accounts of the Association.

**11. Annual general meeting**

- (1) The Association is to hold an annual general meeting each year.
- (2) An annual general meeting is to be held on any day (being not later than 4 months after the end of the financial year of the Association) the committee determines.

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- (3) An annual general meeting is to be in addition to any other general meeting that may be held in the same year.
- (4) The notice convening an annual general meeting is to specify the purpose of the meeting.
- (5) The ordinary business of an annual general meeting is to be as follows:
  - (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any general meeting held since that meeting;
  - (b) to receive from the committee, auditor and servants of the Association reports on the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year of the Association;
  - (c) to elect the officers of the Association and the ordinary committee members;
  - (d) to appoint the auditor and determine his or her remuneration;
  - (e) to determine the remuneration of servants of the Association.
- (6) An annual general meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with [rule 13](#).

**12. Special general meetings**

- (1) The committee may convene a special general meeting of the Association at any time.
- (2) The committee, on the requisition in writing of at least 5 members of the Association, is to convene a special general meeting of the Association.
- (3) A requisition for a special general meeting –
  - (a) is to state the objects of the meeting; and
  - (b) is to be signed by each of the requisitionists; and
  - (d) is to be deposited at the office of the Association; and
  - (c) may consist of several documents, each signed by one or more of the requisitionists.
- (4) If the committee does not cause a special general meeting to be held within 21 days after the day on which a requisition is deposited at the office of the Association, any one or more of the requisitionists may convene the meeting within 3 months after the day of the deposit of the requisition.
- (5) A special general meeting convened by requisitionists is to be convened in the same manner, as nearly as practicable, as the manner in which a special general meeting would be convened by the committee.

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- (6) All reasonable expenses incurred by requisitionists in convening a special general meeting are to be refunded by the Association.

**13. Notices of general meetings**

- (1) At least 14 days, exclusive of the date of the notice is given and exclusive of the date of the meeting, before the day on which a general meeting of the Association is to be held, the public officer of the Association is to cause the members to be notified of the : –

- (a) the place, day and time at which the meeting is to be held; and  
(b) the nature of the business that is to be transacted at the meeting.

**14. Business and quorum at general meetings**

- (1) All business transacted at a general meeting, other than the ordinary business of an annual general meeting, is special business.
- (2) Business is not to be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members of the Association entitled to vote is present at the time the meeting considers that business.
- (3) A quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting is 10 members of the Association attending personally or by proxy entitled to vote.
- (4) If a quorum is not present within one half hour after the time appointed for the commencement of a general meeting, the meeting –
- (a) if convened on the requisition of members of the Association, is dissolved;  
or  
(b) if convened by the committee, is to be adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and at the same place; or  
(c) at any other date time or place specified by the chairperson –  
(A) at the time of the adjournment; or  
(B) by notice in a manner determined by the chairperson.
- (5) If at an adjourned general meeting a quorum is not present within one half hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the meeting is dissolved.

**15. Chairperson at general meetings**

At each general meeting of the Association, the chairperson is to be –

- (a) the president; or  
(b) in the absence of the president, the vice-president.

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- (c) in the absence of the president and the vice-president, a member of the Association elected to preside as chairperson by the members of the Association present and entitled to vote at the general meeting.

**16. Adjournment of general meetings**

- (1) The chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may adjourn the meeting with the consent of the members of the Association who are present and entitled to vote at the meeting, but no business is to be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- (2) If a meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting is to be given in the same manner as the notice of the original meeting.
- (3) If a meeting is adjourned for less than 14 days, it is not necessary to give any notice of the adjournment or of the business to be transacted at the adjourned meeting.

**17. Determination of questions arising at general meetings**

- (1) A question arising at a general meeting of the Association is to be determined on a show of hands.
- (2) A declaration by the chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been lost or carried, or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority, together with an entry to that effect in the minute book of the Association, is evidence of that fact unless a poll is demanded on or before that declaration.

**18. Votes**

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting of the Association, a member of the Association (including the chairperson) has one vote only.
- (2) All votes are to be given personally or by proxy as permitted herein.
- (3) Despite [subrule \(1\)](#), in the case of an equality of votes, the chairperson has a second or casting vote.
- (4) A member who is entitled to attend and cast a vote at a general meeting may appoint a member of the Association as the member's proxy to attend and vote for the member at the meeting. An instrument appointing a proxy will only be valid if it is in writing under the hand of the appointer or his attorney duly authorised in writing and given to the public officer or chairman of the meeting prior to the commencement of the meeting. The instrument may specify the manner in which the proxy is to vote in respect to a particular

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resolution and where that so provides the proxy is not entitled to vote on the resolution except as specified in the instrument.

**19. Taking of poll**

If at a general meeting a poll on any question is demanded –

- (a) the poll is to be taken at that meeting in the manner the chairperson determines; and
- (b) the result of the poll is taken to be the resolution of the meeting on that question.

**20. When poll to be taken**

- (1) A poll that is demanded on the election of a chairperson, or on a question of adjournment, is to be taken immediately.
- (2) A poll that is demanded on any other question is to be taken at any time before the close of the meeting as the chairperson determines.

**21. Affairs of Association to be managed by a committee**

- (1) The affairs of the Association are to be managed by a committee of management constituted as provided in rule 23.
- (2) The committee –
  - (a) is to control and manage the business and affairs of the Association; and
  - (b) may exercise all the powers and perform all the functions of the Association, other than those powers and functions that are required by these rules to be exercised and performed by members of the Association at a general meeting; and
  - (c) has power to do anything that appears to the committee to be essential for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Association.

**22. Officers of the Association**

- (1) The officers of the Association are as follows:
  - (a) one president;
  - (b) a vice-president;
  - (c) one treasurer;
  - (d) one secretary.
- (2) The vice president, treasurer and secretary are to be elected by the committee from the ordinary committee members in such fashion as the committee deems

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appropriate. The vice president, treasurer and secretary are to hold office until the next annual general meeting after that at which he or she is elected as an ordinary committee member and are eligible for re-election provided of course that they have been elected as an ordinary committee member.

- (3) The committee may appoint a member of the Association, whether a member of the committee or not, as the public officer. Until, or in absence of, a member being so appointed, the secretary will be deemed to be the public officer of the Association for the purposes of the Associations Incorporation Act 1963 and these rules.
- (4) The President of the Association is to hold office until the next annual general meeting after that at which he or she is elected and is eligible for re-election provided that such member will not be eligible for re-election to any position on the committee if he or she has served six consecutive years as a member of the committee.
- (5) If a casual vacancy in an office referred to in [subrule \(1\)](#) occurs, the committee may appoint one of its members to fill the vacancy until the next annual general meeting after the appointment.

### **23. Constitution of the committee**

- (1) The committee consists of –
  - (a) President of the Association elected at the annual general meeting; and
  - (b) 9 ordinary committee members elected at an annual general meeting made up as follows:
    - (i) three committee members nominated by Southern members under rule 24;
    - (ii) three committee members nominated by Northern members under rule 24; and
    - (iii) three committee members nominated by North Western members under rule 24.
- (2) An ordinary committee member is to hold office until the next annual general meeting after that at which he or she is elected and is eligible for re-election provided that such member will not be eligible for re-election to any position on the committee if he or she has served six consecutive years as a member of the committee.
- (3) If a casual vacancy occurs in the office of ordinary committee member, the committee may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy until the next annual general meeting after the appointment, without any reference to regions.

### **24. Election of numbers of committee**

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- (1) A nomination of a candidate for election as the President of the Association, or as an ordinary committee member, is to be –
- (a) in the case of a President, made in writing, signed by 2 members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the nomination); and delivered to the public officer of the Association at least 10 days before the day on which the annual general meeting is to be held;
  - (b) in the case of a committee member nominated by North Western members: made in writing, signed by 2 members of the Association, those two members having their principle place of residence is in the North Western region and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the nomination); and delivered to the public officer of the Association at least 10 days before the day on which the annual general meeting is to be held; and
  - (c) in the case of a committee member nominated by Northern members: made in writing, signed by 2 members of the Association, those two members having their principle place of residence is in the Northern region and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the nomination); and delivered to the public officer of the Association at least 10 days before the day on which the annual general meeting is to be held; and
  - (d) in the case of a committee member nominated by Southern members: made in writing, signed by 2 members of the Association, those two members having their principle place of residence is in the Southern region and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the nomination); and delivered to the public officer of the Association at least 10 days before the day on which the annual general meeting is to be held.
- (2A) If insufficient nominations are received to fill the vacancies on the committee referred to in 23(1)(b)(i)–
- (a) the candidates nominated are taken to be elected; and
  - (b) further nominations are to be received at the annual general without regard to the principal place of residence of the members making the nominations.
- (2B) If insufficient nominations are received to fill the vacancies on the committee referred to in 23(1)(b)(ii)–
- (a) the candidates nominated are taken to be elected; and
  - (b) further nominations are to be received at the annual general without regard to the principal place of residence of the members making the nominations.

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- (2C) If insufficient nominations are received to fill the vacancies on the committee referred to in 23(1)(b)(iii)–
- (a) the candidates nominated are taken to be elected; and
  - (b) further nominations are to be received at the annual general without regard to the principal place of residence of the members making the nominations.
- (3) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies on the committee to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected.
- (4) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies on the committee to be filled, a ballot is to be held in respect to those vacancies.
- (5) If the number of further nominations received at the annual general meeting exceeds the number of remaining vacancies on the committee to be filled, a ballot is to be held in relation to those further nominations.
- (5A) If, after, application of the above rules the vacancies are not filled, the committee will be validly constituted by those committee members so elected.
- (6) The ballot for the election of President and ordinary committee members is to be conducted at the annual general meeting in the manner determined by the committee , all members who are entitled to vote at a general meeting being entitled to vote on the nominations regardless of their principle place of residence.
- (7) A person is not eligible to be nominated as a president or ordinary committee member unless they are a member of the Association and do not hold, at the time of nomination, a position in the Department of Health and Human Services (Tas). If a nominee is appointed to a position in the Department of Health and Human Services (Tas) prior to the time of the election, they will be deemed to have withdrawn their nomination and will not be eligible to be elected.

**25. Vacation of office**

For the purpose of these rules, the office of an officer of the Association, or of an ordinary committee member, becomes casually vacant if the officer or committee member –

- (a) dies; or
- (b) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her remuneration or estate for their benefit;
- (c) becomes a represented person within the meaning of the [\*Guardianship and Administration Act 1995\*](#); or
- (d) resigns office in writing addressed to the committee; or
- (e) ceases to be ordinarily resident in Tasmania; or



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- (f) is absent from 3 consecutive meetings of the committee without the permission of the other members of the committee; or
- (g) ceases to be a member of the Association; or
- (h) fails to pay all arrears of subscription within 14 days after receiving a notice in writing signed by the public officer of the Association stating that the officer or committee member has ceased to be a financial member of the Association; or
- (i) is appointed to a position within the Department of Health and Human Services (Tas).

**26. Meetings of the committee**

- (1) The committee is to meet at least once every two months at any place and time the committee determines.
- (2) A meeting of the committee, other than a meeting referred to in subrule (1), may be convened by the President or any 3 of the members of the committee.
- (3) Written notice of any special committee meeting is to be served on members of the committee and is to specify the general nature of the business to be transacted.
- (4) A special committee meeting may only transact business of which notice is given in accordance with subrule (3).
- (5) A quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee is 5 members of the committee attending in person, or via virtual attendance, whether that be by telephone, video link or other suitable method.
- (6) Business is not to be transacted at a meeting of the committee unless a quorum is present.
- (7) If a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of –
  - (a) a meeting of the committee (other than a special committee meeting), the meeting is to be adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and at the same place; or
  - (b) a special committee meeting, the meeting is dissolved.
- (8) At each meeting of the committee, the chairperson is to be –
  - (a) the president; or
  - (b) in the absence of the president, the vice-president;
  - (c) in the absence of the president and vice-president, a member of the committee elected to preside as chairperson by the members of the committee present at the meeting.

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- (9) Any question arising at a meeting of the committee is to be determined –
- (a) on a show of hands; or
  - (b) if demanded by a member, by a poll taken at that meeting in the manner the chairperson determines.
- (10) On any question arising at a meeting of the committee, a member of the committee (including the chairperson) has one vote only.
- (11) Despite subrule (10), in the case of an equality of votes, the chairperson has a second or casting vote.
- (12) Written notice of each committee meeting is to be served on each member of the committee by –
- (a) giving it to the member before the day on which the meeting is to be held; or
  - (b) leaving it, before the day on which the meeting is to be held, at the member's postal or residential address or place or address of business or employment last known to the server of the notice; or
  - (c) sending it by post to the person's postal or residential address or address of business or employment last known to the server of the notice in sufficient time for it to be delivered to that address in the ordinary course of post before the day on which the meeting is to be held; or
  - (d) faxing it to the member's fax number; or
  - (e) emailing it to the member's email address; or
  - (f) messaging via text message to the member's telephone number; or
  - (g) messaging via electronic message to the member's relevant message account.
- (12) A resolution in writing signed by 90% of all the members of the committee entitled to vote on the resolution and containing a statement they are in favor of the resolution will be valid as if it had been passed at a duly convened meeting of members, such resolution may consist of several documents in identical form each signed by one or more members

**27. Disclosure of interests**

- (1) If a member of the committee or a member of a subcommittee has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered, or about to be considered, by the committee or subcommittee at a meeting, the member is to, as soon as practicable after the relevant facts come to the member's knowledge, disclose the nature of the interest to the committee.
- (2) If at a meeting of the committee or a subcommittee a member of the committee or subcommittee votes in respect of any matter in which the member has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest, that vote is not to be counted.

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**28. Subcommittees**

- (1) The committee may –
  - (a) appoint a subcommittee from the committee; and
  - (b) prescribe the powers and functions of that subcommittee.
- (2) The committee may co-opt any person as a member of a subcommittee without voting rights, whether or not the person is a member of the Association.
- (3) A quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the subcommittee is 3 appointed members entitled to vote.
- (4) The public officer of the Association is to convene meetings of a subcommittee.
- (5) Any question arising at a meeting of a subcommittee is to be determined –
  - (a) on a show of hands; or
  - (b) if demanded by a member, by a poll taken at that meeting in the manner the chairperson determines.
- (6) On any question arising at a meeting of a subcommittee, a member of the subcommittee (including the chairperson) has one vote only.
- (7) Written notice of each subcommittee meeting is to be served on each member of the subcommittee by –
  - (a) giving it to the member during business hours before the day on which the meeting is to be held; or
  - (b) leaving it, during business hours before the day on which the meeting is to be held, at the member's postal or residential address or place or address of business or employment last known to the server of the notice; or
  - (c) sending it by post to the person's postal or residential address or address of business or employment last known to the server of the notice in sufficient time for it to be delivered to that address in the ordinary course of post before the day on which the meeting is to be held; or
  - (d) faxing it to the member's fax number; or
  - (e) emailing it to the member's email address.

**29. Executive committee**

- (1) The president, the vice-president, the treasurer and the secretary constitute the executive committee.

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- (2) During the period between meetings of the committee, the executive committee may issue instructions to the public officer and servants of the Association in matters of urgency connected with the management of the affairs of the Association.
- (3) The executive committee is to report on any instructions issued under [subrule \(2\)](#) to the next meeting of the committee.

**30. Annual subscription**

- (1) The annual subscription payable by members of the Association is the following amount:  
\$5.00 per member, provided life members are not obliged to pay the annual subscription.
- (2) The members of the Association may alter the annual subscription by special resolution.
- (3) The annual subscription of a member of the Association is due and payable on or before the first day of each financial year of the Association

**31. Service of notices and requisitions**

Except as otherwise provided by these rules, a document may be served under these rules on a person by –

- (a) giving it to the person; or
- (b) leaving it at, or sending it by post to, the person's postal or residential address or place or address of business or employment last known to the server of the document; or
- (c) faxing it to the person's fax number; or
- (d) emailing it to the person's email address ; or
- (e) messaging via text message to the member's telephone number; or
- (f) messaging via electronic message to the member's relevant message account.

**32. Expulsion of members**

- (1) The committee may expel a member from the Association if, in the opinion of the committee, the member is guilty of conduct detrimental to the interests of the Association.
- (2) The expulsion of a member under subrule (1) does not take effect until the later of the following:
  - (a) the fourteenth day after the day on which a notice is served on the member under [subrule \(3\)](#);

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- (b) if the member exercises his or her right of appeal under this rule, the conclusion of the special general meeting convened to hear the appeal.
- (3) If the committee expels a member from the Association, the public officer of the Association, without undue delay, is to cause to be served on the member a notice in writing –
  - (a) stating that the committee has expelled the member; and
  - (b) specifying the grounds for the expulsion; and
  - (c) informing the member of the right to appeal against the expulsion under [rule 33](#).

**33. Appeal against expulsion**

- (1) A member may appeal against an expulsion under rule 32 by serving on the public officer of the Association, within 14 days after the service of a notice under rule 32(3), a requisition in writing demanding the convening of a special general meeting for the purpose of hearing the appeal.
- (2) On receipt of a requisition, the public officer is to immediately notify the committee of the receipt.
- (3) The committee is to cause a special general meeting to be held within 21 days after the day on which the requisition is received.
- (4) At a special general meeting convened for the purpose of hearing an appeal under this rule –
  - (a) no business other than the question of the expulsion is to be transacted; and
  - (b) the committee may place before the meeting details of the grounds of the expulsion and the committee's reasons for the expulsion; and
  - (d) the expelled member must be given an opportunity to be heard; and
  - (c) the members of the Association who are present are to vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the expulsion should be lifted or confirmed.
- (5) If at the special general meeting a majority of the members present vote in favour of the lifting of the expulsion –
  - (a) the expulsion is lifted; and
  - (b) the expelled member is entitled to continue as a member of the Association.
- (6) If at the special general meeting a majority of the members present vote in favour of the confirmation of the expulsion –
  - (a) the expulsion takes effect; and
  - (b) the expelled member ceases to be a member of the Association.

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**34. Disputes**

- (1) A dispute between a member of the Association, in the capacity as a member, and the Association is to be determined by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the *Commercial Arbitration Act 2011*.
- (2) This rule does not affect the operation of [rule 33](#).

**35. Execution of Documents/Seal**

- (1) The seal of the Association is to be in the form of a rubber stamp inscribed with the name of the Association encircling the word "Seal".
- (2) The seal is not to be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the committee.
- (3) The affixing of the seal is to be attested by the signatures of –
  - (a) two members of the committee; or
  - (b) one member of the committee and the public officer of the Association or any other person the committee may appoint for that purpose.
- (4) If a sealed instrument has been attested under [subrule \(3\)](#), it is presumed, unless the contrary is shown, that the seal was affixed to that instrument by the authority of the committee.
- (5) The seal is to remain in the custody of the public officer of the Association.
- (6) Unless required by law, documents may be executed by the Association without affixing the seal, provided that the document is executed by at least two committee members, one being an officer of the Association.

**36 Variation of constitution**

These rules may only be altered by special resolution.

**37. Transitional rules:**

- (1) Persons whom have been granted a life membership under previous rules of the association will be taken to be “life members” for the purposes of [rule 5\(14\)](#).
- (2) Persons whom have been approved as members of the Association under previous rules of the Association will be taken to been approved as members for the purposes of these rules.