

# **CONSTITUTION OF**

## **Australian Sign Language Interpreters' and Translators' Association Ltd.**

Australian Company Number (ACN) 675 791 198  
Australian Business Number (ABN) 90 014 641 341

A company limited by guarantee

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## Preliminary

### 1. Name of the company

The name of the company is Australian Sign Language Interpreters' and Translators' Association Ltd. (the Company).

### 2. Type of company

The Company is a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee which is established to be, and to continue as, a charity.

### 3. Limited liability of Members

The liability of Members is limited to the amount of the guarantee in clause 4.

### 4. The guarantee

Each Member must contribute an amount not more than \$10 (the guarantee) to the property of the Company if the Company is wound up while the Member is a Member, or within 12 months after they stop being a Member, and this contribution is required to pay for the:

- (a) debts and liabilities of the Company incurred before the Member stopped being a Member, or
- (b) costs of winding up.

### 5. Definitions

In this constitution, words and phrases have the meaning set out in clauses 74, 75 and 76.

## Charitable purposes and powers

### 6. Object

The Company's object is to improve the well-being, promote equality of opportunity and increase full participation in society for Deaf people, including by:

- (a) acting as the national peak organisation representing the interests of Auslan/English Interpreters and Translators and Deaf Interpreters and Translators in Australia,
- (b) promoting and educating Interpreters and Translators and ensuring best practice and working conditions for Interpreters and Translators, particularly by establishing and maintaining Interpreters' and Translators' Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct, and
- (c) doing such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Object.

**7. Powers**

- 7.1 The income and assets of the Company must be applied solely in furtherance of the objects set out in clause 6.
- 7.2 Subject to clause 8, the Company has the following powers, which may only be used to carry out its purposes set out in clause 6:
- (a) the powers of an individual, and
  - (b) all the powers of a Company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act.

**8. Not-for-profit**

- 8.1 The Company must not distribute any income or assets directly or indirectly to its Members, except as provided in clauses 8.2 and 74.
- 8.2 Clause 8.1 does not prevent the Company from doing any of the following things, provided they are done in good faith:
- (a) paying a Member for goods or services the Member has provided or expenses the Member has properly incurred at fair and reasonable rates or rates more favourable to the Company, or
  - (b) making a payment to a Member in carrying out the Company's charitable purposes.

**9. Amending the constitution**

- 9.1 Subject to clause 9.2, the Members may amend this constitution by passing a Special Resolution.
- 9.2 The Members must not pass a Special Resolution that amends this constitution if passing it causes the Company to no longer be a charity.

## Members

**10. Membership and register of Members**

- 10.1 The Members of the Company consist of:
- (a) Ordinary Members,
  - (b) Associate Members,
  - (c) Honorary Life Members, and
  - (d) any other person that the Directors allow to be a Member, in accordance with this constitution.
- 10.2 The following eligibility criteria apply for membership:
- (a) To become an Ordinary Member, a person must have either:

- (i) current NAATI credentials as an Auslan/English interpreter or Translator, or
  - (ii) completed a Deaf interpreting training course.
- (b) To become an Associate Member, a person must:
  - (i) not be an Ordinary Member or Honorary Life Member, and
  - (ii) be an interpreting/translating student or Auslan student, or
  - (iii) be an individual who supports or has an interest in sign language interpreting/translating.
- (c) To become an Honorary Life Member, an individual must be an Ordinary Member or Associate Member whom the Directors consider has rendered important and outstanding services to ASLITA. Recommendations for honorary life membership may be made to the Directors by any Member or by a State/Territory Committee.

10.3 The following classes of Members are entitled to the following:

- (a) Ordinary Members and Honorary Life Members shall:
  - (i) have the right to attend and vote at General Meetings,
  - (ii) have the right to receive general circulars of information and minutes of General Meetings,
  - (iii) receive regular communications from ASLITA, and
  - (iv) participate in ASLITA events and receive member discounts on any associated registration fees.
- (b) Associate Members shall:
  - (i) have the right to attend, but not vote at, General Meetings,
  - (ii) have the rights outlined in clauses 10.3(a)(ii), (iii) and (iv),
  - (iii) have the right to be co-opted to any Committee, and
  - (iv) have the right to transfer their membership to become an Ordinary Member upon satisfying the eligibility criteria outlined in clause 10.2(a).

10.4 The Company must establish and maintain a register of Members. The register of Members must be kept by the Secretary and must contain:

- (a) for each current Member:
  - (i) full name,
  - (ii) current residential address,

- (iii) any alternative address nominated by the Member for the service of notices (including an electronic address), and
  - (iv) the date the Member was entered on to the register, and
- (b) for each person who stopped being a Member in the last seven years:
  - (i) full name,
  - (ii) residential address as at the date the Member stopped being a Member,
  - (iii) any alternative address nominated by the Member for the service of notices (including an electronic address), and
  - (iv) the dates the Membership started and ended.

10.5 The register of Members must be made available for inspection by current Members at the Company's registered office.

10.6 Information that is accessed from the register of Members must only be used in a manner relevant to the interests or rights of Members. A Member must not use information about a person obtained from the register to contact or send material to the person, other than for:

- (a) the purposes of sending the person a Company newsletter, a notice in respect of a meeting or other Company event, or other material relating to the Company, or
- (b) any other purpose necessary to comply with a requirement under the Act or Regulation.

## **11. Who can be a Member**

11.1 A person who supports the purposes of the Company is eligible to apply to become a Member of the Company under clause 12.

11.2 In this clause, 'person' means an individual.

## **12. How to apply to become a Member**

12.1 A person (as defined in clause 11.2) may apply to become a Member of the Company by:

- (a) lodging an application in the form determined by the Directors,
- (b) lodging (including by electronic means, if the Directors so determine) this application with the Secretary stating the person:
  - (i) wants to become a Member,
  - (ii) supports the purposes of the Company,
  - (iii) agrees to comply with and be bound by the Company's constitution, including by paying the guarantee under clause 4 if required, and

- (iv) pays the annual membership fee, as prescribed and determined by the Directors from time to time.

**13. Directors decide whether to approve Membership**

- 13.1 The Directors (or a committee, Director, employee or such other person delegated by the Directors) must consider an application for Membership within a reasonable time after the Secretary receives the application. The Directors (or a committee, Director, employee or such other person delegated by the Directors) may, in their absolute discretion, decide whether to approve or reject an application for membership of the Company.
- 13.2 If an application for membership is approved under clause 13.1, the Secretary must as soon as possible:
  - (a) enter the new Member on the register of Members, and
  - (b) write to the applicant to tell the applicant that the application was approved, and the date that the applicant's membership started (see clause 14).
- 13.3 If an application is rejected under clause 13.1, the Secretary must write to the applicant as soon as possible to tell the applicant that the application has been rejected and refund any paid membership fees. Neither the Directors, any delegated person(s), nor the Secretary are required to provide reasons for the Directors' decision to reject an application.
- 13.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the Directors (or a committee, Director, employee or such other person delegated by the Directors) may approve an application even if the application does not state the matters listed in clauses 12.1. In that case, by applying to become a Member, the applicant impliedly agrees to the matters listed in clause 12.1.

**14. When a person becomes a Member**

Other than Initial Members, an applicant becomes a Member when the Secretary enters the applicant's name on to register of Members.

**15. When a person stops being a Member**

A person immediately stops being a Member if:

- (a) the person fails to pay any annual membership fee as prescribed by the Directors from time to time within three months of a written request from the Secretary to pay such a fee
- (b) the person resigns in writing to the Secretary with a month's notice (or any other period that the Directors may determine) - on the expiration of the period of notice,
- (c) the person is expelled under clause 18,



- (d) the person fails to respond within three months to a written request from the Secretary that the person confirms in writing that the person wants to remain a Member, or
- (e) the person dies, becomes mentally incapacitated, or is declared bankrupt.

**16. Membership fees**

- 16.1 A Member must, on admission to membership, pay to ASLITA a full or pro-rata admission fee for that class of membership as determined by the Directors.
- 16.2 A Member must pay to ASLITA an annual membership fee:
  - (a) except as provided by paragraph 16.2(b) before the first day of the financial year of ASLITA in each calendar year, or
  - (b) if the Member becomes a Member on or after the first day of the financial year of ASLITA in any calendar year, pay a pro-rata admission fee as determined by the Directors.
- 16.3 The Directors may, from time to time, increase or reduce any annual membership fee. Any such decision shall be submitted for ratification at the following Annual General Meeting or by calling a Special General Meeting, to be adopted by resolution.
- 16.4 Payment of the annual membership fee shall be made in the form as determined by the Directors.
- 16.5 Membership fees are non-refundable under any circumstances except for where the application for membership is rejected, in which case the membership fee will be refunded.
- 16.6 The Directors will determine and disburse a proportion of membership fees to the ASLITA State/Territory Committees it establishes, for the work of those committees.

## **Dispute resolution and disciplinary procedures**

**17. Dispute resolution**

- 17.1 The dispute resolution procedure in this clause 17 applies to disputes (disagreements) under this constitution between a Member or a Director and either:
  - (a) one or more Members,
  - (b) one or more Directors, or
  - (c) the Company.
- 17.2 A Member must not start a dispute resolution procedure in relation to a matter which is the subject of a disciplinary procedure under clause 18 until the disciplinary procedure has been completed.
- 17.3 If those involved in the dispute do not resolve the dispute under clause 17.3, they must within 10 days after the expiry of the period in clause 17.3:

- (a) inform the Directors of the dispute in writing,
- (b) agree or request that a mediator be appointed, and
- (c) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.

17.4 The mediator must be:

- (a) chosen by agreement of those involved in the dispute, or
- (b) where those involved do not agree:
  - (i) for disputes between Members, a person chosen by the Directors, or
  - (ii) for all other disputes, a person chosen by either the Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission or the president of the law institute or society in the state or territory in which the Company has its registered office.

17.5 A mediator chosen by the Directors under clause 17.5(b)(i):

- (a) may be a Member or former Member of the Company,
- (b) must not have a personal interest in the dispute, and
- (c) must not be biased towards or against anyone involved in the dispute.

17.6 When conducting the mediation, the mediator must:

- (a) allow those involved in the dispute a reasonable chance to be heard,
- (b) allow those involved in the dispute a reasonable chance to review any written statements,
- (c) ensure that those involved in the dispute are afforded natural justice, and
- (d) not make a decision on the dispute.

**18. Disciplining Members**

18.1 In accordance with this clause, the Directors may resolve to warn, suspend or expel a Member from the Company if the Directors consider that:

- (a) the Member has breached this constitution, or
- (b) the Member's behaviour is causing, has caused, or is likely to cause harm to the Company, or is prejudicial to the interests of the Company.

18.2 At least 14 days before the Directors' meeting at which a resolution under clause 18.1 will be considered, the Secretary must notify the Member in writing:

- (a) that the Directors are considering a resolution to warn, suspend or expel the Member,
- (b) that this resolution will be considered at a Directors' meeting and the date of that meeting,

- (c) what the Member is said to have done or not done,
  - (d) the nature of the resolution that has been proposed, and
  - (e) that the Member may provide an explanation to the Directors, and details of how to do so the Member may provide such explanation.
- 18.3 Before the Directors pass any resolution under clause 18.1, the Member must be given a chance to explain or defend itself by:
  - (a) sending the Directors an explanation in written English or recorded in Auslan before the Directors' meeting, and/or
  - (b) appearing at the meeting (whether in person or using any technology consented to by the Directors).
- 18.4 After considering any explanation under clause 18.3, the Directors may in their full discretion:
  - (a) take no further action,
  - (b) warn the Member,
  - (c) suspend the Member's rights as a Member for a period of no more than 12 months,
  - (d) expel the Member,
  - (e) refer the decision to an unbiased, independent person on conditions that the Directors consider appropriate (however, the person can only make a decision that the Directors could have made under this clause), or
  - (f) require the matter to be determined at a General Meeting.
- 18.5 The Directors cannot fine a Member.
- 18.6 The Secretary must give written notice to the Member of the decision under clause 18.4 as soon as practicable.
- 18.7 Disciplinary procedures must be completed as soon as reasonably practical.
- 18.8 There will be no liability for any loss or injury suffered by the Member as a result of any decision made in good faith under this clause.

## General meetings of Members

### **19. General meetings called by Directors**

- 19.1 The Directors may call a General Meeting.
- 19.2 If Ordinary Members and Honorary Life Members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast at a General Meeting make a written request to the Company for a General Meeting to be held, the Directors must:

- (a) within 21 days of the members' request, give all Members notice of a General Meeting, and
  - (b) hold the General Meeting within two months of the members' request.
- 19.3 The percentage of votes that Ordinary Members and Honorary Life Members have (in clause 19.2) is to be worked out as at midnight before the members' request for the meeting.
- 19.4 The Ordinary Members and Honorary Life Members who make the request for a General Meeting must:
  - (a) be in writing,
  - (b) state in the request any resolution to be proposed at the meeting,
  - (c) sign the request, and
  - (d) lodge the request with the Secretary.
- 19.5 Separate copies of a document setting out the request may be signed by Ordinary Members and Honorary Life Members if the wording of the request is the same in each copy.

## **20. General meetings called by Members**

- 20.1 If the Directors do not call the meeting within 21 days of being requested under clause 19.2, 50% or more of the Members who made the request may call and arrange to hold a General Meeting.
- 20.2 To call and hold a meeting under clause 20.1 the Members must:
  - (a) as far as possible, follow the procedures for General Meetings set out in this constitution,
  - (b) call the meeting using the list of Members on the Company's Member register, which the Company must provide to the Members making the request at no cost, and
  - (c) hold the General Meeting within three months after the request was given to the Company.
- 20.3 The Company must pay the Members who call and hold the General Meeting under this clause 20 any reasonable expenses they incur because the Directors did not call and hold the meeting.

## **21. Annual General Meeting**

- 21.1 A General Meeting, called the Annual General Meeting, must be held:
  - (a) within 18 months after registration of the Company, and
  - (b) after the first Annual General Meeting, at least once in every calendar year.

- 21.2 Even if these items are not set out in the notice of meeting, the business of an Annual General Meeting may include:
- (a) a review of the Company's activities,
  - (b) a review of the Company's finances,
  - (c) any auditor's report,
  - (d) the election of Directors, and
  - (e) the appointment and payment of auditors, if any.
- 21.3 Before or at the Annual General Meeting, the Directors must give information to the Members on the Company's activities and finances during the period since the last Annual General Meeting.
- 21.4 The chairperson of the Annual General Meeting must give Members as a whole a reasonable opportunity at the meeting to ask questions or make comments about the management of the Company.
- 22. Notice of General Meetings**
- 22.1 Notice of a General Meeting must be given to:
- (a) each Member entitled to vote at the meeting,
  - (b) each Director, and
  - (c) the auditor (if any).
- 22.2 Notice of a General Meeting must be provided in writing at least 21 days before the meeting.
- 22.3 Subject to clause 22.4, notice of a General Meeting may be provided less than 21 days before the meeting if:
- (a) for an Annual General Meeting, all the Members entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting agree beforehand, or
  - (b) for any other General Meeting, Members with at least 95% of the votes that may be cast at the meeting agree beforehand.
- 22.4 Notice of a meeting cannot be provided less than 21 days before the meeting if a resolution will be moved to:
- (a) remove a Director,
  - (b) appoint a Director in order to replace a Director who was removed, or
  - (c) remove an auditor.
- 22.5 Notice of a General Meeting must include:
- (a) the place, date and time for the meeting (and if the meeting is to be held in two or more places, the technology that will be used to facilitate this),

- (b) the general nature of the meeting's business,
  - (c) if applicable, that a Special Resolution is to be proposed and the words of the proposed Special Resolution,
  - (d) a statement that Members have the right to appoint proxies and that, if a Member appoints a proxy:
    - (i) the completed proxy form must be delivered to the Company at its registered address or the address (including an electronic address) specified in the notice of the meeting, and
    - (ii) the completed proxy form must be delivered to the Company at least seven days before the meeting, and
  - (e) for an Annual General Meeting, information on the Company's activities and finances during the period since the last Annual General Meeting.
- 22.6 If a General Meeting is adjourned (put off) for one month or more, the Members must be given new notice of the resumed meeting.
- 22.7 The accidental omission to give notice of a General Meeting to, or the non-receipt of any such notice by, a person or other entity entitled to receive it does not invalidate the proceedings at, or any resolution passed at, the General Meeting.
- 23. Quorum at General Meetings**
- 23.1 Where the Company has three or more Members, for a General Meeting to be held, at least a majority or 10 Members (whichever is the lesser number) of the Members (a quorum) must be present (in person, or by duly appointed proxy or attorney) for the whole meeting. When determining whether a quorum is present, a person may only be counted once (even if that person is a proxy of more than one Member).
- 23.2 Where the Company has two Members, for a General Meeting to be held, the two Members (a quorum) must be present (in person, or by duly appointed proxy or attorney) for the whole meeting.
- 23.3 If the Company only has one Member, then that one Member constitutes a quorum.
- 23.4 No business may be conducted at a General Meeting if a quorum is not present.
- 23.5 If there is no quorum present within 30 minutes after the starting time stated in the notice of General Meeting, the General Meeting is adjourned to the date, time and place that the chairperson specifies. If the chairperson does not specify one or more of those things, the meeting is adjourned to:
- (a) if the date is not specified – the same day in the next week,
  - (b) if the time is not specified – the same time, and
  - (c) if the place is not specified – the same place.
- 23.6 If no quorum is present at the resumed meeting within 30 minutes after the starting time set for that meeting, the meeting is cancelled.

**24. Auditor's right to attend meetings**

- 24.1 The auditor (if any) is entitled to attend any General Meeting and to be heard by the Members on any part of the business of the meeting that concerns the auditor in the capacity of auditor.
- 24.2 The Company must give the auditor (if any) any communications relating to the General Meeting that a Member of the Company is entitled to receive.

**25. Using technology to hold meetings**

- 25.1 The Company may hold a General Meeting using any technology that gives the Members as a whole a reasonable opportunity to participate, including to hear and be heard or to see and be seen, as the case may be.
- 25.2 Anyone using this technology is taken to be present in person at the meeting.

**26. Chairperson for General Meetings**

- 26.1 The President is entitled to chair General Meetings.
- 26.2 The Members present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting may choose a Director or Member to be the chairperson for that meeting if:
  - (a) there is no President, or
  - (b) the President is not present within 30 minutes after the starting time set for the meeting, or
  - (c) the President is present but says they do not wish to act as chairperson of the meeting.

**27. Role of the chairperson**

- 27.1 The chairperson of a General Meeting is responsible for the conduct of the General Meeting, and for this purpose must give Members a reasonable opportunity to make comments and ask questions (including to, or of, the auditor (if any)).
- 27.2 The chairperson does not have a casting vote.

**28. Adjournment of meetings**

- 28.1 If a quorum is present, a General Meeting must be adjourned if a majority of Members Present direct the chairperson of the meeting to adjourn it.
- 28.2 If a general meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, the Secretary must give written, signed or verbal notice of the adjourned meeting to each Member stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- 28.3 Only unfinished business may be dealt with at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.

**29. Provision of language access at general meetings**

General Meetings may be conducted in English or Auslan, with interpretation made available to ensure language access to all Members Present.

**Members' resolution and statements**

**30. Members' resolutions and statements**

30.1 Members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast on a resolution may give:

- (a) written notice to the Company of a resolution they propose to move at a General Meeting (Members' resolution), and/or
- (b) a written request to the Company that the Company give all of its Members a statement about a proposed resolution or any other matter that may properly be considered at a General Meeting (Members' statement).

30.2 A notice of a Members' resolution must set out the wording of the proposed resolution and be signed by the Members proposing the resolution.

30.3 A request to distribute a Members' statement must set out the statement to be distributed and be signed by the Members making the request.

30.4 Separate copies of a document setting out the notice or request under clause 30.1(a) or 30.1(b) respectively may be signed by Members if the wording is the same in each copy.

30.5 The percentage of votes that Members have (as described in clause 30) is to be determined as at midnight before the request or notice is given to the Company.

30.6 If the Company has been given notice of a Members' resolution under clause 30.1(a), the resolution must be considered at the next General Meeting held more than two months after the notice is given.

30.7 This clause does not limit any other right that a Member has to propose a resolution at a General Meeting.

**31. Company must give notice of proposed resolution or distribute statement**

31.1 If the Company has been given a notice or request under clause 30:

- (a) in time to send the notice of the proposed Members' resolution or a copy of the Members' statement to Members with the notice of the General Meeting, referred to in clause 30.6, it must do so at the Company's cost, or
- (b) too late to send the notice of the proposed Members' resolution or a copy of the Members' statement to Members with the notice of the General Meeting, referred to in clause 30.6, then the Members who proposed the resolution or made the request must pay the expenses reasonably incurred by the Company in giving Members notice of the proposed Members' resolution or a copy of the Members' statement. However, at a General



Meeting, the Members may pass a resolution that the Company will pay these expenses.

31.2 The Company does not need to send the notice of proposed Members' resolution or a copy of the Members' statement to Members if the notice of the proposed Members' resolution or the Members' statement (as applicable):

- (a) is more than 1000 words long or longer than five minutes in length,
- (b) may be defamatory (in the opinion of the Directors),
- (c) clause 31.1(b) applies, and the Members who proposed the resolution or made the request have not paid the Company enough money to cover the cost of sending the notice of the proposed Members' resolution or a copy of the Members' statement to Members (as applicable), or
- (d) in the case of a proposed Members' resolution, the resolution does not relate to a matter that may be properly considered at a General Meeting or is otherwise not a valid resolution able to be put to Members.

## **32. Circular resolutions of Members**

32.1 Subject to clause 32.3, the Directors may put a resolution to the Members to pass a resolution without a General Meeting being held (a circular resolution).

32.2 The Directors must notify the auditor (if any) as soon as possible that a circular resolution has or will be put to Members, and set out the wording of the resolution.

32.3 Circular resolutions cannot be used:

- (a) for a resolution to remove an auditor or a Director,
- (b) for passing a Special Resolution, or
- (c) where the Corporations Act or this constitution requires a meeting to be held.

32.4 A circular resolution is passed if all the Members entitled to vote on the resolution sign or agree to the circular resolution, in the manner set out in clause 32.5 or clause 32.7.

32.5 Where the Company has only one Member, any resolution may be passed without a general meeting being held if that Member records the resolution and signs the record.

32.6 Members may sign a circular resolution by signing:

- (a) a single document setting out the circular resolution and containing a statement that they agree to the resolution, or
- (b) separate copies of that document, as long as the wording is the same in each copy.

- 32.7 The Company may send a circular resolution by email to Members and Members may agree to the circular resolution by sending a reply email to that effect, including the text of the resolution in the Member's reply.

## **Voting at General Meetings**

### **33. Eligibility to vote**

- 33.1 A Member is not entitled to vote at a general meeting if the Member's annual membership fee is in arrears at the date of the meeting.
- 33.2 A Member is not entitled to vote at a general meeting if the Member is under 18 years of age.

### **34. How many votes a Member has**

At the General Meeting, each Member who is entitled to vote has one vote.

### **35. Challenge to Member's right to vote**

- 35.1 Only a Member or the chairperson of a General Meeting may challenge a person's right to vote at a General Meeting, and they may only challenge at that meeting.
- 35.2 If a challenge is made under clause 35.1, the chairperson of the General Meeting must decide whether or not the person may vote. The chairperson's decision is final.

### **36. How voting at the General Meeting is carried out**

- 36.1 Voting at the General Meeting must be conducted and decided by:
- (a) a show of hands,
  - (b) a vote in writing, or
  - (c) another method chosen by the chairperson of the General Meeting that is fair and reasonable in the circumstances.
- 36.2 Before a vote is taken, the chairperson of the General Meeting must state whether any proxy votes have been received and, if so, how the proxy votes will be cast.
- 36.3 On a show of hands under clause 36.1(a), the chairperson's decision is conclusive evidence of the result of the vote.
- 36.4 The chairperson of the General Meeting and the meeting minutes do not need to state the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour or against a resolution on a show of hands.

### **37. When and how a vote in writing must be held**

- 37.1 A vote in writing under clause 36.1(b) may be demanded on any resolution instead of or after a vote by a show of hands on the resolution at a General Meeting by:
- (a) at least five Members Present,

- (b) Members Present with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast on the resolution, vote in writing (determined as at the midnight before the vote in writing is demanded), or
  - (c) the chairperson of the General Meeting.
- 37.2 A vote in writing must be taken when and how the chairperson directs, unless clause 37.3 applies.
- 37.3 A vote in writing must be held immediately if it is demanded under clause 37.1:
  - (a) for the election of a chairperson under clause 26.2, or
  - (b) to decide whether to adjourn the meeting.
- 37.4 A demand for a vote in writing may be withdrawn.
- 38. Appointment of proxy**
- 38.1 A Member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote at a General Meeting on the Member's behalf.
- 38.2 A proxy must be a Member.
- 38.3 A proxy appointed to attend and vote on behalf of a Member has the same rights as the Member to:
  - (a) present at the meeting,
  - (b) vote in writing under clause 36.1(b)(but only to the extent allowed by the appointment), and
  - (c) join in to demand a vote in writing under clause 37.1.
- 38.4 A proxy form must be signed by the Member appointing the proxy and must contain:
  - (a) the Member's name and address,
  - (b) the proxy's name or the name of the office held by the proxy, and
  - (c) the meeting(s) at which the appointment may be used.
- 38.5 A proxy appointment may be standing (ongoing).
- 38.6 A proxy form must be received by the Company at the address stated in the notice under clause 22.5(d) or at the Company's registered address at least seven days before a meeting.
- 38.7 A proxy does not have the authority to present and vote for a Member at a meeting while the Member is present at the meeting.
- 38.8 Unless the Company receives written notice before the start or resumption of a General Meeting at which a proxy votes, a vote cast by the proxy is valid even if, before the proxy votes, the appointing Member:
  - (a) dies,

- (b) becomes mentally incapacitated,
- (c) revokes the proxy's appointment, or
- (d) revokes the authority of an agent who appointed the proxy.

38.9 A proxy appointment may specify the way the proxy must vote on a particular resolution.

### **39. Voting by proxy**

39.1 A proxy is not entitled to vote on a show of hands under 36.1(a) (but this does not prevent a Member appointed as a proxy from voting as a Member on a show of hands).

39.2 When a vote in writing is held as contemplated by clause 36.1(b), a proxy:

- (a) does not need to vote, unless the proxy appointment specifies the way the proxy must vote,
- (b) if the way the proxy must vote is specified on the proxy form, must vote that way, and
- (c) if the proxy is also a Member or holds more than one proxy appointment, may cast the votes held in different ways.

## **Directors**

### **40. Number and Composition of Directors**

40.1 The Company must have at least three and no more than nine Directors. Unless the Members of the Company determine otherwise by Special Resolution, the number of Directors will be seven.

40.2 At all times, there must be at least two Directors who are ordinarily resident in Australia.

40.3 The Directors will be comprised of:

- (a) the State/Territory Committee Chairpersons elected under clause 50.4 (**Elected Directors**),
- (b) directors appointed under clause 41.2 (**Appointed Directors**),
- (c) directors representing at least three separate states or territories of Australia,
- (d) no more than two appointed directors from any one state or territory, and
- (e) no less than two-thirds of the directors being Ordinary Members or Honorary Life Members.

### **41. Election and appointment of Directors**

41.1 A person is eligible to act as a Director of the Company if they:

- (a) give the Company their signed consent to act as a Director of the Company, and
  - (b) are not ineligible to be a Director under the Corporations Act or the ACNC Act.
- 41.2 Subject to clause 40.3, the Directors may appoint a person as Director if that person:
  - (a) gives the Company their signed consent to act as a Director of the Company,
  - (b) fills a skills-based or other need of the Directors as determined by the Directors from time to time, and
  - (c) is not ineligible to be a Director under the Corporations Act or the ACNC Act.
- 41.3 Subject to clause 40.3, the Directors may appoint a person as a Director to fill a casual vacancy of an Elected Director if that person:
  - (a) gives the Company their signed consent to act as a Director of the Company, and
  - (b) is not ineligible to be a Director under the Corporations Act or the ACNC Act.
- 41.4 If the number of Directors is reduced to fewer than three or is less than the number required for a quorum, the continuing Directors may act for the purpose of increasing the number of Directors to three (or higher if required for a quorum) or calling a General Meeting, but for no other purpose.
- 42. Election of President**
- 42.1 The Directors must elect a Director as the Company's President.
- 42.2 The President cannot also hold the position of a State/Territory Committee Chairperson.
- 43. Term of office**
- 43.1 At each Annual General Meeting:
  - (a) any Director appointed by the Directors to fill a casual vacancy, and
  - (b) any Elected Director who has not retired in the preceding two years, must retire, but may nominate for election or re-election, subject to clauses 43.4 and 50.4.
- 43.2 An Elected Director's term of office starts at the end of the Annual General Meeting at which the Director is elected and ends at the end of the Annual General Meeting at which the Director retires.
- 43.3 Each Elected Director must retire at least once every two years.
- 43.4 An Elected Director may seek re-election on two occasions and serve a maximum period of six years.

43.5 An Appointed Director may be appointed for a term of two years but may be re-appointed by the Directors and may serve a maximum period of six years.

43.6 A Director who has held office for a period of six years or more may only be reappointed or re-elected by a Special Resolution.

**44. When a Director stops being a Director**

A Director stops being a Director if the Director:

- (a) gives written notice of resignation as a Director to the Company,
- (b) dies, becomes of unsound mind or mentally incapacitated,
- (c) is removed as a Director by a resolution of the Members,
- (d) are absent for three consecutive Directors' meetings without approval from the Directors or is unresponsive to communications (email and electronic) for more than one month without notice, or
- (e) becomes ineligible to be a Director of the Company under the Corporations Act or the ACNC Act.

**45. Alternate Directors**

45.1 Subject to the Corporations Act, each Director may, with the approval of a majority of the other Directors, in writing, appoint any person to act as an alternate Director in the Director's place during any period the Director thinks fit. Any alternate Director:

- (a) may be removed or suspended from office by written notice to the Company from the Director who appointed the alternate Director (appointor),
- (b) is entitled to receive notice of meetings of Directors, to attend meetings of Directors (if the appointor is not present) and to be counted towards a quorum at meetings of Directors,
- (c) is entitled to vote at meetings of Directors the alternate attends on all resolutions on which the appointor could vote had the appointor attended and, where the alternate is a Director in the alternate's own right, will have a separate vote on behalf of the Director who the alternate is representing in addition to the alternate's own vote, and
- (d) subject to the terms of the alternate's appointment, may exercise any powers that the appointor may exercise in the alternate's own right where the appointor is unavailable for any reason except the power to appoint an alternate Director.

45.2 The action of an alternate Director will be conclusive evidence as against third parties of the unavailability of the appointor.

45.3 The alternate Director:

- (a) will automatically vacate office if the appointor is removed or otherwise ceases to hold office for any reason,
- (b) while acting as an alternate Director is responsible to the Company for the alternate's own acts and defaults and will not be deemed to be the agent of the appointor,
- (c) will not be taken into account in determining the number of Directors for the purposes of this constitution, and
- (d) may act as an alternate for more than one Director.

## **Powers of Directors**

### **46. Powers of Directors**

- 46.1 The Directors are responsible for managing and directing the activities of the Company to achieve the purposes set out in clause 6.
- 46.2 The Directors may use all the powers of the Company except for powers that, under the Corporations Act or this constitution, may only be used by Members.
- 46.3 The Directors must decide on the responsible financial management of the Company including:
  - (a) any suitable written delegations of power under clause 47, and
  - (b) how money will be managed, such as how electronic transfers, negotiable instruments or cheques must be authorised and signed or otherwise approved.
- 46.4 The Directors cannot remove a Director or auditor. Directors and auditors may only be removed by a Members' resolution at a General Meeting.

### **47. Delegation of Directors' powers**

- 47.1 The Directors may, by power of attorney or otherwise, appoint any person to be the agent of the Company for such purposes and on such conditions as they determine.
- 47.2 The Directors may delegate to a committee, a Director, an employee of the Company (such as a chief executive officer) or any other person, as they consider appropriate:
  - (a) any of their powers and functions, or
  - (b) the implementation of their resolutions and day to day management of the affairs of the Company.
- 47.3 The delegation and agency must be recorded in the Company's minute book.

### **48. Payments to Directors**

- 48.1 The Company may:

- (a) pay remuneration to a Director for work the Director does for the Company as a Director, if the amount is a fair and reasonable fee for the work done,
- (b) pay a Director for work the Director does for the Company, other than as a Director, if the amount is no more than a reasonable fee for the work done, or
- (c) reimburse a Director for expenses properly incurred by the Director in connection with the affairs of the Company.

48.2 Any payment made:

- (a) under clause 48.1(a) must be approved by the Members, and
- (b) under clauses 48.1(b) or 48.1(c) must be approved by the Directors.

48.3 The Company may pay premiums for insurance indemnifying Directors, as allowed for by law (including the Corporations Act) and this constitution.

#### **49. Execution of documents**

The Company may execute a document without using a common seal if the document is signed by:

- (a) two Directors of the Company, or
- (b) a Director and the Secretary.

#### **50. Committees**

50.1 The Directors may delegate its powers and functions to one or more committees, including the State/Territory Committees, consisting of such Directors or Members of the Company as the Directors think fit and may revoke all or any of the powers so delegated in writing.

50.2 The Directors cannot delegate the following powers and functions to a committee:

- (a) the power of delegation,
- (b) a function which is a duty imposed on the Directors by the Act or any other law, and
- (c) the expenditure of funds other than those allocated under clause 16.6 without the prior approval of the Directors.

50.3 Committees will comply with any By-laws that may be given by the Directors.

50.4 The role of State/Territory Committee Chairperson will be elected by their respective state/territory membership at each applicable Annual General Meeting.

50.5 Any Committee Chairperson, that is not a State/Territory Committee Chairperson, does not need to be a Director and will be elected by the respective committee membership.



- 50.6 All members of such committees will have one vote in any meetings of the committee. Questions arising at any meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present, and in the case of an equality of votes the chairperson of the committee will not have a second or casting vote.
- 50.7 Any member of a committee may be paid remuneration, as the Directors determine, so long as the amount is no more than a reasonable fee for the work done.
- 50.8 All acts done by any meeting of the Directors or of a committee, notwithstanding that it is afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any such Director or committee member, or that the Directors or any of them were disqualified, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified to be a Director or committee member.
- 50.9 Despite any delegation under this clause, the Directors may continue to exercise any function delegated.
- 50.10 Committees meet and report to the Directors quarterly through the Committee Chairperson, or more frequently where needed.
- 50.11 The President will be an ex-officio member of all committees, including the State/Territory Committees.

**51. State/Territory Committees**

- 51.1 The State/Territory Committees are subject to the same rules as Committees outlined in clause 50.
- 51.2 The aims of the State/Territory Committees are:
- (a) to support the objects of ASLITA specifically within the state/territory context, and
  - (b) to provide professional development and networking opportunities.
- 51.3 Funding arrangements for the State/Territory Committees are as follows:
- (a) the State/Territory Committee will be allocated funding as outlined in clause 16.6, and will be delegated the powers to expend those funds as determined by a majority of the State/Territory Committee with consideration of ASLITA's aims and objectives, and
  - (b) should a State/Territory Committee cease to function, any funds allocated to that State/Territory Committee will be managed at the discretion of the Directors.
- 51.4 The State/Territory Committee Chairperson's duties include:
- (a) leading their respective State/Territory Committee in making financial decisions and liaising with state-based stakeholders, and
  - (b) any other responsibilities outlined in the State/Territory Committee Terms of Reference (a By-law).

## Duties of Directors

### 52. Duties of Directors

The Directors must comply with their duties as Directors under legislation and common law, and while the Company is a Registered Charity, with the duties described in governance standard 5 of the regulations made under the ACNC Act, which include:

- (a) to exercise their powers and discharge their duties with the degree of care and diligence that a reasonable person would exercise if they were a Director of the Company,
- (b) to act in good faith in the best interests of the Company and to further the charitable purposes of the Company set out in clause 6,
- (c) not to misuse their position as a Director,
- (d) not to misuse information they gain in their role as a Director,
- (e) to disclose any perceived or actual material conflicts of interest in the manner set out in clause 53,
- (f) to ensure that the financial affairs of the Company are managed responsibly, and
- (g) not to allow the Company to operate while it is insolvent.

### 53. Conflicts of interest

53.1 A Director must disclose the nature and extent of any actual or perceived material conflict of interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of Directors (or that is proposed in a circular resolution):

- (a) to the other Directors, or
- (b) if all of the Directors have the same conflict of interest, to the Members at the next General Meeting, or at an earlier time if reasonable to do so.

53.2 The disclosure of a conflict of interest by a Director must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and register of interests.

53.3 Each Director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of Directors (or that is proposed in a circular resolution) must not, except as provided under clause 53.4:

- (a) be present at the meeting while the matter is being discussed, or
- (b) vote on the matter.

53.4 A Director may still be present and vote if:

- (a) the Director's interest arises because the Director is a Member of the Company, and the other Members have the same interest,
- (b) the Director's interest relates to an insurance contract that insures, or would insure, the Director against liabilities that the Director incurs as a Director of the Company (see clause 71),
- (c) the Director's interest relates to a payment by the Company under clause 70 (indemnity), or any contract relating to an indemnity that is allowed under the Corporations Act,
- (d) the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) makes an order allowing the Director to vote on the matter, or
- (e) the Directors who do not have a material personal interest in the matter pass a resolution that:
  - (i) identifies the Director, the nature and extent of the Director's interest in the matter and how it relates to the affairs of the Company, and
  - (ii) says that those Directors are satisfied that the interest should not stop the Director from voting or being present.

## Directors' meetings

### 54. When the Directors meet

The Directors may decide how often, where and when they meet, but must meet at least six times a year.

### 55. Calling Directors' meetings

55.1 A Director may call a Directors' meeting by giving reasonable notice to all of the other Directors.

55.2 A Director may give notice in writing or by any other means of communication that has previously been agreed to by all of the Directors.

### 56. Chairperson for Directors' meetings

56.1 The President is entitled to chair Directors' meetings.

56.2 The Directors at a Directors' meeting may choose a Director to be the chairperson for that meeting if the President is:

- (a) not present within 30 minutes after the starting time set for the meeting, or
- (b) present but does not want to act as chairperson of the meeting.

### 57. Quorum at Directors' meetings

57.1 Unless the Directors determine otherwise, the quorum for a Directors' meeting is a majority (more than 50%) of Directors.

- 57.2 Subject to clauses 41.4 and 53.3, a quorum must be present for the whole Directors' meeting.

**58. Using technology to hold Directors' meetings**

- 58.1 The Directors may hold their meetings by using any technology (such as video or teleconferencing) that is agreed to by all of the Directors.
- 58.2 The Directors' agreement to the use of technology may be an ongoing one.
- 58.3 A Director may only withdraw their consent within a reasonable period before the meeting.

**59. Passing Directors' resolutions**

A Directors' resolution must be passed by a majority of the votes cast by Directors present and entitled to vote on the resolution.

**60. Circular resolutions of Directors**

- 60.1 The Directors may pass a circular resolution without a Directors' meeting being held.
- 60.2 A circular resolution is passed if all the Directors entitled to vote on the resolution sign or otherwise agree to the resolution in the manner set out in clause 60.3 or clause 60.4.
- 60.3 The Director may sign a circular resolution by signing:
- (a) a single document setting out the resolution and containing a statement that they agree to the resolution, or
  - (b) separate copies of that document, as long as the wording of the resolution is the same in each copy.
- 60.4 The Company may send a circular resolution by email to the Directors and the Directors may agree to the resolution by sending a reply email to that effect, including the text of the resolution in their reply.
- 60.5 A circular resolution is passed when the last Director signs or otherwise agrees to the resolution in the manner set out in clause 60.3 or clause 60.4.

## Secretary

**61. Appointment and role of Secretary**

- 61.1 The Company must have at least one Secretary, who may also be a Director. At least one Secretary must ordinarily reside in Australia.
- 61.2 A Secretary must be appointed by the Directors (after giving the Company their signed consent to act as Secretary of the Company) and may be removed by the Directors.
- 61.3 The Directors must decide the terms and conditions under which the Secretary is appointed, including any remuneration.

61.4 The role of the Secretary includes:

- (a) maintaining a register of the Company's Members as required in clause 10,
- (b) maintain a register of all appointments of Directors to the President role, and
- (c) maintaining the minutes and other records of General Meetings (including notices of meetings), Directors' meetings and circular resolutions.

## Minutes and records

### 62. Minutes and records

62.1 The Company must, within one month of its registration as a company, make and keep the following records:

- (a) minutes of proceedings and resolutions of General Meetings,
- (b) minutes of circular resolutions of Members,
- (c) a copy of the notice of each General Meeting, and
- (d) a copy of any Members' resolution or any Members' statement distributed to Members under clause 30.

62.2 The Company must, within one month of its registration as a company, make and keep the following records:

- (a) minutes of proceedings and resolutions of Directors' meetings (including meetings of any committees), and
- (b) minutes of circular resolutions of Directors.

62.3 The Company must give a Member access to the records set out in clause 62.1, by making the records available for inspection at the Company's registered office at reasonable times.

62.4 The Directors may authorise a Member to inspect other records of the Company, including records referred to in clause 62.2 and clause 63.1.

62.5 The Directors must ensure that minutes of a General Meeting or a Directors' meeting are signed within a reasonable time after the meeting by:

- (a) the chairperson of the meeting, or
- (b) the chairperson of the next meeting.

### 63. Financial and related records

63.1 The Company must make and keep written financial records that:

- (a) correctly record and explain its transactions and financial position and performance, and

- (b) enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared, and to be reviewed or audited (as the case may be) if the Company is required to do so by law.
- 63.2 The Company must also keep written records that correctly record its operations.
- 63.3 The Company must retain its records for at least seven years.
- 63.4 The Directors must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Company's records are kept safe.

## By-laws

### 64. By-laws

- 64.1 The Directors may pass a resolution to make by-laws to give effect to this constitution.
- 64.2 Members and Directors must comply with by-laws as if they were part of this constitution.

## Notice

### 65. What is notice

- 65.1 Anything written to or from the Company under any clause in this constitution is written notice and is subject to clauses 65 to 67, unless specified otherwise.
- 65.2 Clauses 65 to 67 do not apply to a notice of proxy under clause 38.6.

### 66. Notice to the Company

Written notice or any communication under this constitution may be given to the Company, the Directors or the Secretary by:

- (a) delivering it to the Company's registered office,
- (b) posting it to the Company's registered office or to another address chosen by the Company for notice to be provided, or
- (c) sending it to an email address or other electronic address notified by the Company to the Members as the Company's email address or other electronic address.

### 67. Notice to Members

- 67.1 Written notice or any communication under this constitution may be given to a Member:
  - (a) in person,
  - (b) sending it to the email or other electronic address nominated by the Member as an alternative address for service of notices (if any),

- (c) by posting it to, or leaving it at the address of the Member in the register of Members or an alternative address (if any) nominated by the Member for service of notices, or
- (d) if agreed to by the Member, by notifying the Member at an email or other electronic address nominated by the Member, that the notice is available at a specified place or address (including an electronic address).

67.2 If the Company does not have an address for the Member, the Company is not required to give notice in person.

**68. When notice is taken to be given**

A notice:

- (a) delivered in person, or left at the recipient's address, is taken to be given on the day it is delivered,
- (b) sent by email or other electronic method, is taken to be given on the business day after it is sent,
- (c) sent by post, is taken to be given on the fifth day after it is posted with the correct payment of postage costs, and
- (d) given under clause 67.1(d) is taken to be given on the business day after the notification that the notice is available is sent.

## Financial year

**69. Company's financial year**

The Company's financial year is from **1 July** to **30 June**, unless the Directors pass a resolution to change the financial year.

## Indemnity, insurance and access

**70. Indemnity**

70.1 The Company must indemnify each officer of the Company out of the assets of the Company, to the relevant extent, against all losses and liabilities (including costs, expenses and charges) incurred by that person as an officer of the Company.

70.2 In this clause, 'officer' means a Director or Secretary and such other persons as the Directors consider appropriate to benefit under this clause, and includes a Director, Secretary or such other person after they have ceased to hold the relevant office or position.

70.3 In this clause, 'to the relevant extent' means:

- (a) to the extent that the Company is not precluded by law (including the Corporations Act) from doing so, and

- (b) for the amount that the officer is not otherwise entitled to be indemnified and is not actually indemnified by another person (including an insurer under an insurance policy).

70.4 The indemnity is a continuing obligation and is enforceable by an officer even though that person is no longer an officer of the Company.

## **71. Insurance**

To the extent permitted by law (including the Corporations Act), and if the Directors consider it appropriate, the Company may pay or agree to pay a premium for a contract insuring a person who is or has been an officer of the Company against any liability incurred by the person as an officer of the Company.

## **72. Access to documents**

72.1 A Director has a right of access to the financial records of the Company at all reasonable times.

72.2 If the Directors agree, the Company must give a Director or former Director access to:

- (a) certain documents, including documents provided for or available to the Directors, and
- (b) any other documents referred to in those documents.

## **Winding up**

### **73. Surplus assets not to be distributed to Members**

Subject to the Corporations Act and any other applicable Act, and any court order, if the Company is wound up, any Surplus Assets must not be distributed to a Member or a former Member of the Company, unless that Member or former Member is a charity described in clause 74.1.

### **74. Distribution of Surplus Assets**

74.1 Subject always to clause 74.3, the Corporations Act and any other applicable Act, and any court order, any Surplus Assets that remain after the Company is wound up must be distributed to one or more charities:

- (a) with charitable purposes similar to, or inclusive of, the purposes in clause 6, and
- (b) which also prohibit the distribution of any Surplus Assets to its Members to at least the same extent as the Company.



- 74.2 The decision as to the charity or charities to be given the Surplus Assets must be made by a Special Resolution of Members at or before the time of winding up. If the Members do not make this decision, the Company may apply to the Supreme Court to make this decision.
- 74.3 Where the Company has been endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-BA of the Tax Act and the Company is wound up or the Company's endorsement as a deductible gift recipient is revoked (whichever occurs first), any surplus:
- (a) gifts or money or property for the principal purpose of the Company,
  - (b) Contributions made in relation to a Fundraising Event held for the principal purpose of the Company, and
  - (c) money received by the Company because of such gifts and Contributions,
- must be transferred to one or more entities:
- (d) with charitable purpose(s) similar to, or inclusive of, the purpose(s) in clause 6,
  - (e) which also prohibit the distribution of any Surplus Assets to its Members to at least the same extent as the Company, and
  - (f) are endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-BA of the Tax Act.

## Definitions and interpretation

### 75. Definitions

In this constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:

"\$" means Australian dollars.

"ACNC Act" means the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cth).

"ASLITA" means the Australian Sign Language Interpreters' and Translators' Association.

"Company" means the Company referred to in clause 1.

"Contributions" has the same meaning as described in item 7 or 8 of the table in section 30-15 of the Tax Act.

"Corporations Act" means the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

"Deaf" includes any person with hearing loss who uses sign language. The first letter in the word "deaf" is capitalised when referring to the Deaf Community, Deaf

Culture or Deaf people who consider themselves part of the Deaf community. It is not capitalised when referring to physical deafness.

"Fundraising Event" has the same meaning as described in section 995-1 of the Tax Act.

"General Meeting" means a meeting of Members and includes the Annual General Meeting, under clause 21.1.

"Initial Member" means a person who is named in the application for registration of the Company, with their consent, as a proposed Member of the Company.

"Interpreters" means interpreters with NAATI certification.

"Member Present" means, in connection with a General Meeting, a Member Present in person or by proxy at the venue or venues for the meeting.

"NAATI" means the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters.

"President" means a person elected by the Directors to be the Company's chairperson under clause 42

"Registered Charity" means a charity that is registered under the ACNC Act.

"Special Resolution" means a resolution:

- i. of which notice has been given under clause 22.5(c), and
- ii. that has been passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by Members Present and entitled to vote on the resolution.

"Surplus Assets" means any assets of the Company that remain after paying all debts and other liabilities of the Company, including the costs of winding up.

"Tax Act" means the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth).

"Translators" means any NAATI credentialled Auslan/English translator.

## **76. Reading this constitution with the Corporations Act**

76.1 The replaceable rules set out in the Corporations Act do not apply to the Company.

76.2 While the Company is a Registered Charity, the ACNC Act and the Corporations Act override any clauses in this constitution which are inconsistent with those Acts.

76.3 If the Company is not a Registered Charity (even if it remains a charity), the Corporations Act overrides any clause in this constitution which is inconsistent with that Act.

- 76.4 A word or expression that is defined in the Corporations Act, or used in that Act and covering the same subject, has the same meaning as in this constitution.

**77. Interpretation**

In this constitution:

- (a) the words 'including', 'for example', or similar expressions mean that there may be more inclusions or examples than those mentioned after that expression,
- (b) the singular includes the plural and vice versa,
- (c) a gender includes every gender,
- (d) 'writing' and 'written' includes printing, typing and other modes of reproducing words in a visible form including, without limitation, any representation of words in a physical document or in an electronic communication or form or otherwise (including Auslan video recordings), and
- (e) reference to an Act includes every amendment, re-enactment, or replacement of that Act and any subordinate legislation made under that Act (such as regulations).