



**AUSTRALIAN
ASSOCIATION
OF CHRISTIAN
SCHOOLS**

CONSTITUTION

OF

Australian Association of Christian Schools Limited

ACN 125 196 929

A Public Company Limited by Guarantee

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1 Statement of Faith

Members of AACCS affirm the following Statement of Faith:

(a) About the Supreme Authority of the Bible

We affirm that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are God's infallible and inerrant revelation to man. It is thus the supreme standard by which all things are to be judged, and the authoritative guide for all life and conduct.

(b) About the Lordship of Christ

We affirm that Jesus Christ is from eternity God's only begotten Son; He was born of a virgin and is therefore truly God and man. Through Him God created and sustains the world. Jesus suffered and died for our sins and rose again for our salvation. He ascended into heaven where He now sits on the right hand of the Father making intercession for His people. Christ is the Head of the Church and will come again to judge the world and complete the salvation of His people and the Kingdom of God.

(c) About the Task of the Christian School

We affirm that a Christian school is a school where Christ is confessed as the Lord of creation. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, its special task is to teach the children to understand the world from a Christ-centred perspective and to equip them for their calling in life in subjection to Jesus Christ as Lord.

(d) About the Role of Government

We affirm that all citizens owe obedience to the legally instituted governments of our nation which derive their authority from God and are responsible to Him for promoting and maintaining public security, justice and welfare.

We affirm that the responsibility for the education and guidance of children lies in the first instance with their parents or legal guardians, and that governments are duty bound to provide, without distinction and on general terms of equality, both the legal right and the opportunity for parents and guardians to choose for their children schools other than those established by public authorities that provide for the education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.

2 Principles and Commitments

In its manner of operation, AACS endeavours to:

- (a) conduct itself 'in a manner that is worthy of the gospel of Christ.' (Phil 1:27);
- (b) demonstrate an honest, humble and respectful style in all its interactions, both internal and external;
- (c) be a positive, creative force for Christian education rather than a reactive, negative voice;
- (d) encourage healthy citizenship and visionary solutions that contribute to the common good and point beyond parochial positions;
- (e) develop arguments and dialogue that reflect a biblically informed worldview and shed light on the underlying philosophies of other viewpoints;
- (f) advocate in a manner that appreciates the broader context in light of biblical principles and is not marked by a singular pursuit of organisational self-interest;
- (g) be a positive voice for all those who experience disadvantage and injustice in the educational sector; and
- (h) serve its members and the wider Christian community to build God's kingdom in a transparent and cooperative manner as it works alongside other Christian organisations.

3 Definitions and interpretation

3.1 Definitions

In this Constitution unless a contrary intention appears:

Alternate Director means a person appointed as an alternate director under clause 22.1.

Annual General Meeting has the same meaning as the term 'AGM' in the Corporations Act.

Appointed Director means a person appointed as a Director under clause 12.2(a).

ASIC means the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

AACS means Australian Association of Christian Schools Limited being an Australian public company limited by guarantee established under the Corporations Act which bears the CAN 125 196 929 and ABN 59 125 196 929.

Board means some or all of the Directors acting as a board.

Christian School means a school (including a multi-campus school):

- (a) where Christ is confessed as the Lord of creation and which teaches children to understand the world from a Christ-centred perspective and which otherwise identifies and fulfils its task in accordance with the Statement of Faith (or similar document);
- (b) that employs only Christian staff who are able to subscribe to the Statement of Faith (or a similar such document); and
- (c) that is governed only by Christian people and Christian organisations who are able to subscribe to the Statement of Faith (or similar document).

Constitution means this constitution as amended from time to time.

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

Director means an individual holding office as director of AACS.

Elected Director means a person elected as a Director under clause 12.2(b).

General Meeting means a meeting of the Members of AACS and includes an Annual General Meeting.

Group Member means an organisation (whether incorporated or unincorporated) representing a number of Christian Schools at either National or State or Territory level and meets the requirements as set out in clause 8.9.

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

Individual Member School means an entity that conducts a Christian School or Christian Schools (whether incorporated or unincorporated).

Insolvency Event occurs where:

- (a) an order is made or a resolution is passed by creditors for the winding up, dissolution or external administration of the Member;
- (b) the Member enters into any arrangement, compromise or composition with or assignment for the benefit of its creditors or any class of them; or
- (c) a controller, receiver, receiver and manager, official manager or other external administrator is appointed to the Member.

Member means a Group Member or an Individual Member School entered on the Register of AACS as a member.

Object means the object of AACS as set out in clause 4.

Principles and Commitments means the matters set out in clause 2.

Register means the register of members under the Corporations Act and if appropriate includes a branch register.

Registered Office means the registered office for the time being of AACS.

Related Body Corporate has the same meaning it has in the Corporations Act.

Representative means an individual appointed to represent a corporate Member at a General Meeting of AACS in accordance with the Corporations Act, or an individual duly authorised to represent a Member at a General Meeting of AACS.

Rule means a rule made by the Board in accordance with clause 17.

Schedule means a schedule to this Constitution.

Secretary means an individual appointed as a secretary of AACS in accordance with clause 27.1.

Special Resolution means a resolution:

- (a) of which notice has been given to the Members in accordance with clause 10.3; and
- (b) that has been passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by:
 - (i) the Group Members; and
 - (ii) the Individual member Schools,
entitled to vote on the resolution.

Statement of Faith means the document set out in clause 1.

3.2 Interpretation

In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears:

- (a) words importing any gender include all other genders;
- (b) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (c) a reference to a law includes regulations and instruments made under the law;
- (d) a reference to a clause is a reference to a clause in this Constitution unless otherwise stated;
- (e) a reference to a law or a provision of a law includes amendments, re-enactments or replacements of that law or the provision, whether by the State or the Commonwealth of Australia or otherwise;
- (f) a reference to a meeting includes a meeting by technology where all attendees have reasonable opportunity to participate;
- (g) a reference to a person being present in person includes an individual participating in a meeting:
 - (i) as described in clause 3.2(f); or
 - (ii) as a Representative.
- (h) a reference to a person includes a natural person, corporation or other body corporate;
- (i) a power, an authority or a discretion reposed in a Director, the Board, AACS in General Meeting or a Member may be exercised at any time and from time to time;
- (j) "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; and
- (k) Australian dollars, dollars, A\$ or \$ is a reference to the lawful currency of Australia.

3.3 Signing

Where, by a provision of this Constitution, a document including a notice is required to be signed, that requirement may be satisfied in relation to an electronic communication of the document in any manner permitted by law or by any State or Commonwealth law relating to electronic transmissions, or in any other manner approved by the Board.

3.4 Corporations Act

In this Constitution unless the contrary intention appears:

- (a) expressions in this Constitution that deal with a matter dealt with by a particular provision of the Corporations Act have the same meaning as they have in the Corporations Act;

- (b) “section” means a section of the Corporations Act; and
- (c) while AACS is a registered charity under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cth):
 - (i) subject to clause 3.4(c)(ii), the provisions of the Corporations Act in Part 2G.2 and Part 2G.3 (except section 249X) apply as if section 111L(1) of the Corporations Act was not enacted; and
 - (ii) if one of those provisions includes a reference to ASIC, including a reference to lodge any document with, or seek consent or approval from ASIC, that particular requirement does not apply to AACS.

3.5 Headings

Headings are inserted for convenience and are not to affect the interpretation of this Constitution.

3.6 Replaceable rules do not apply

The provisions of the Corporations Act that apply as replaceable rules are displaced by this Constitution and accordingly do not apply to AACS.

4 Object of AACS

The Object of AACS is to pursue the following charitable purposes:

- (a) advancing education, in accordance with the Principles and Commitments and the Statement of Faith, including by providing:
 - (i) a united Christian Schools’ voice on issues relevant to Christian education at National, State and Territory levels; and
 - (ii) political advocacy for Christian School groups and individual Christian Schools;
- (b) to act as trustee and to perform and discharge the duties and functions incidental thereto where this is incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Object; and
- (c) to do such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Object.

5 Powers

AACS has the legal capacity and powers of an individual and also has all the powers of a body corporate under the Corporations Act.

6 Application of income for Object only

6.1 Application of income and property

The income and the property of AACS, however derived:

- (a) must be applied solely towards the promotion of the Object; and
- (b) may not be paid or transferred to the Members, in whole or in part, either directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise.

6.2 Payment in good faith

Clause 6.1 does not prevent payment in good faith to a Member, or to a firm of which a Member is a partner:

- (a) of reasonable remuneration for services to AACS;
- (b) for goods supplied in the ordinary course of business;
- (c) of fair and reasonable interest on money borrowed from a Member at a rate not exceeding that fixed for the purposes of this clause 6.2(c) by AACS in a General Meeting;
- (d) of reasonable rent for premises let by a Member; or
- (e) in furtherance of the Object.

7 Winding up

7.1 Guarantee by Members

- (a) Each Member undertakes to contribute to AACS's property if AACS is wound up while they are a Member, or within 1 year after they cease to be a Member.
- (b) This contribution is for:
 - (i) payment of AACS's debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a Member;
 - (ii) the costs of winding up; and
 - (iii) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.
- (c) The amount is not to exceed \$20.

7.2 Application of property

- (a) If any property remains on the winding up or dissolution of AACS and after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, then, subject always to clause 7.3, that property may not be paid to or distributed among the Members but must be given or transferred to one or more funds or institutions:

- (i) that have charitable purposes similar to, or inclusive of, the Object; and
 - (ii) is a not-for-profit entity whose governing documents prohibit the distribution of its income and property among its members (if it has members) to an extent at least as great as imposed on AACS under this Constitution.
- (b) The funds or institutions will be determined by the Members at or before the time of dissolution.

7.3 Transfer of surplus assets – deductible gift recipients

- (a) Where AACS has been endorsed as a deductible gift recipient, either under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act as an entity or in relation to a fund or an institution it operates, then where:

- (i) AACS is wound up;
- (ii) the fund or institution is wound up; or
- (iii) the endorsement under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act is revoked,

any surplus:

- (iv) gifts of money or property for the principal purpose of AACS, fund or institution (whichever is relevant);
- (v) contributions described in item 7 or 8 of the table in section 30-15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act in relation to a fundraising event held for that purpose; and
- (vi) money received by AACS because of such gifts or contributions,

remaining after payment of all liabilities must be transferred to one or more funds or institutions that comply with clause 7.2 and are deductible gift recipients.

- (b) Where AACS operates more than one fund or institution for which it is a deductible gift recipient and its endorsement under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act is revoked only in relation to one of those funds, or institutions then it may transfer any surplus assets of that fund or institution after payment of all liabilities to any other fund or institution for which it is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient.

8 Membership

8.1 Number of Members

- (a) The minimum number of Members of AACS will be 3.

- (b) The Members of AACS are:
 - (i) the Group Members and the Individual Member Schools of AACS at the date of adoption of this constitution; and
 - (ii) any entity the Board admits to membership under clause 8.2.

8.2 Admission as a Member

The Board may admit any entity as a Member if the entity is eligible under clause 8.3 and makes an application in accordance with clause 8.4.

8.3 Membership criteria

To be eligible to be a Member, a person must:

- (a) be:
 - (i) an Individual Member School; or
 - (ii) a Group Member;
- (b) consent in writing to become a Member; and
- (c) be committed to the Object and agree to be bound by this Constitution.

8.4 Membership process

- (a) The application for membership must be made:
 - (i) accompanied by the signed Statement of Faith;
 - (ii) in writing, signed by the applicant;
 - (iii) in such form as the Board may from time to time prescribe; and
 - (iv) accompanied by the membership fee, if any, determined by the Board.
- (b) Each application for membership must be considered by the Board within a reasonable time after the application is made.
- (c) When an applicant has been accepted or rejected for membership the Secretary must notify the applicant of the decision of the Board within a reasonable period.

8.5 Board's discretion to admit or refuse admission as a Member

The Board has the discretion to refuse any person admission as a Member without giving any reason for refusing.

8.6 Registration as Member

If the Board accepts an application for membership, as soon as practicable, the Board must cause the name of the entity to be entered in the Register.

8.7 Membership fees

The Members must pay such membership fees as prescribed from time to time by the Board.

8.8 Register

- (a) AACS must establish and maintain a Register. The Register must be kept by the Secretary and must contain:
 - (i) for each current Member:
 - (A) name;
 - (B) address;
 - (C) any alternative address nominated by the Member for the service of notice;
 - (D) whether the Member is identified as a Group Member or an Individual Member School, and in the case of an individual, which Group Member or Individual Member School that individual represents; and
 - (E) date the Member was entered on to the Register.
 - (ii) for each entity that stopped being a Member in the last 7 years:
 - (A) name;
 - (B) address;
 - (C) any alternative address nominated by the Member for the service of notices;
 - (D) whether the Member was identified as a Group Member or an Individual Member School, and in the case of an individual, which Group Member or Individual Member School that individual represented; and
 - (E) date the membership started and ended.
- (b) AACS must provide access to the Register in accordance with the Corporations Act.

8.9 Group Member

A member is identified as a group member of AACS if the entity:

- (a) has more than 2,500 students and is not affiliated with a larger Christian school organisation;
- (b) operates 10 or more Christian Schools; or
- (c) is recognised by the Board as a distinct cluster of schools.

9 Ceasing to be a Member

9.1 Cessation of membership

A Member ceases to be a Member on:

- (a) its ceasing to exist;

- (b) resignation by written notice to AACS having immediate effect or with effect from a specified date occurring not more than 7 days after the service of the notice;
- (c) failing to pay any fee that may be prescribed by the Board from time to time within 12 months after the fee was due and payable;
- (d) immediately before the Member becoming subject to an Insolvency Event; or
- (e) the passing of a resolution by the Board or Members in General Meeting pursuant to clause 9.2.

9.2 Termination of membership

- (a) Subject to this Constitution, the Board or Members in General Meeting may at any time terminate the membership of a Member if the Member:
 - (i) refuses or neglects to comply with this Constitution or any applicable Rules made by the Board;
 - (ii) engages in conduct which in the opinion of the Board is unbecoming of the Member or prejudicial to the interests of AACS;
 - (iii) fails to pay any debt due to AACS within a period of 3 months after the date for payment (such debt not including a fee referred to in clause 9.1(c));
 - (iv) acts or makes statements which in the reasonable opinion of the Board are inconsistent with or contrary to the Statement of Faith or Principles and Commitments; or
 - (v) is no longer willing or able to subscribe to the Statement of Faith.
- (b) For a decision of the Board or the Members in General Meeting under clause 9.2(a) to be effective the dispute resolution procedure contained in clause 28 must be followed. The general nature of the allegations made against the Member must be notified to the Member and for the purposes of clause 29.1 this notification will be the notice of the Dispute.

9.3 Limited liability

The Members have no liability as Members except as set out in clause 7.1.

10 General Meetings

10.1 Annual General Meetings

- (a) Annual General Meetings of AACS are to be held in accordance with the Corporations Act.

- (b) Annual General Meetings will be open meetings, with principals, executives, governors, directors and business managers from all schools and Group Members represented by AACCS encouraged to attend.

10.2 Convening a General Meeting

The Board may convene and arrange to hold a General Meeting when they think fit and must do so if required to do so under the Corporations Act.

10.3 Notice of a General Meeting

- (a) Notice of a General Meeting must be given in accordance with the Corporations Act and served in accordance with clause 34.
- (b) A Director is entitled to receive notice of and to attend all General Meetings and is entitled to speak at those meetings.

10.4 Calculation of period of notice

In computing the period of notice under clause 10.3, both the day on which the notice is given or taken to be given and the day of the meeting convened by it are to be disregarded.

10.5 Cancellation or postponement of General Meeting

- (a) Where a General Meeting is convened by the Board they may by notice, whenever they think fit, cancel the meeting or postpone the holding of the meeting to a date and time determined by them.
- (b) This clause 10.5 does not apply to a meeting convened in accordance with the Corporations Act by a single Director, by Members, by the Board on the request of Members or to a meeting convened by a Court.

10.6 Notice of cancellation or postponement of a meeting

Notice of cancellation, postponement or change of place of a General Meeting must state the reason for cancellation or postponement and be given:

- (a) to each Member individually; and
- (b) to each other person entitled to be given notice of a General Meeting under the Corporations Act.

10.7 Contents of notice of postponement of meeting

A notice of postponement of a General Meeting must specify:

- (a) the postponed date and time for the holding of the meeting;
- (b) a place for the holding of the meeting which may be either the same as or different from the place specified in the notice convening the meeting; and
- (c) if the meeting is to be held in 2 or more places, the technology that will be used to facilitate the holding of the meeting in that manner.

10.8 Number of clear days for postponement of meeting

The number of clear days from the giving of a notice postponing the holding of a General Meeting to the date specified in that notice for the holding of the postponed meeting must not be less than the number of clear days' notice of the General Meeting required to be given under clause 10.3.

10.9 Business at postponed meeting

The only business that may be transacted at a General Meeting the holding of which is postponed is the business specified in the original notice convening the meeting.

10.10 Proxy at postponed meeting

Where by the terms of an instrument appointing a proxy:

- (a) the proxy is authorised to attend and vote at one or more General Meetings to be held on or before a specified date; and
- (b) the date for holding the meeting is postponed to a date later than the date specified in the instrument of proxy;

then, by force of this clause 10.10, that later date is substituted for and applies to the exclusion of the date specified in the instrument of proxy, unless the Member appointing the proxy gives to AACS at its Registered Office notice in writing to the contrary not less than 48 hours before the time to which the holding of the meeting has been postponed.

10.11 Non-receipt of notice

The non-receipt of notice of a General Meeting or the convening, cancellation or postponement of a General Meeting by, or the accidental omission to give notice of a General Meeting or the convening, cancellation or postponement of a General Meeting to, a person entitled to receive notice does not invalidate any resolution passed at the General Meeting or at a postponed meeting or the convening, cancellation or postponement of a meeting.

11 Proceedings at General Meetings

11.1 Appointment of Representative

- (a) Each Member shall appoint a Representative to represent that Member at a General Meeting of AACS in accordance with the Corporations Act.
- (b) The instrument appointing a Representative:
 - (i) may be in the form set out in Schedule 1 to this Constitution;
 - (ii) must be in writing signed by an officer or attorney duly authorised by the Member; and
 - (iii) shall remain in force until the authority is revoked.

11.2 Number of a quorum

- (a) A majority or 10 Members, whichever is the lesser number, present in person or by proxy are a quorum at a General Meeting.
- (b) In determining whether a quorum is present, each individual attending as a proxy is to be counted, except that:
 - (i) where a Member has appointed more than one proxy, only one is to be counted; and
 - (ii) where an individual (whether a Member or not) is attending holding more than one proxy, that individual is to be counted only once.

11.3 Requirement for a quorum

- (a) An item of business may not be transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to consider it.
- (b) If a quorum is present at the time the first item of business is transacted, it is taken to be present when the meeting proceeds to consider each subsequent item of business unless the chairman of the meeting (on the chairman's own motion or at the request of a Member or proxy who is present) declares otherwise.

11.4 If quorum not present

If within 15 minutes after the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting:

- (a) if convened by a Director or at the request of Members, is dissolved; and
- (b) in any other case, stands adjourned to the same day in the next week and the same time and place, or to such other day, time and place as the Board appoint by notice to the Members and others entitled to notice of the meeting.

11.5 Adjourned meeting

At a meeting adjourned under clause 11.4(b), 2 Members present in person or by proxy at the meeting are a quorum. If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the adjourned meeting, the meeting is dissolved.

11.6 Appointment and powers of chairman of General Meeting

If the Board has elected one of their number as chairman of their meetings under clause 21.1, that person is also entitled to preside as chairman at a General Meeting.

11.7 Absence of chairman at General Meeting

If a General Meeting is held and:

- (a) a chairman has not been elected by the Board; or
- (b) the elected chairman is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unable or unwilling to act;

then the following persons may preside as chairman of the meeting (in order of precedence):

- (c) the deputy chairman if a Director has been so elected by the Board under clause 21.1; or
- (d) a Director or Member elected by the Members present in person to preside as chairman of the meeting.

11.8 Conduct of General Meetings

- (a) The chairman of a General Meeting:
 - (i) has charge of the general conduct of the meeting and of the procedures to be adopted at the meeting;
 - (ii) may require the adoption of any procedure which is, in the chairman's opinion, necessary or desirable for proper and orderly debate or discussion and the proper and orderly casting or recording of votes at the General Meeting; and
 - (iii) may, having regard where necessary to the Corporations Act, terminate discussion or debate on any matter whenever the chairman considers it necessary or desirable for the proper conduct of the meeting.
- (b) A decision by the chairman under this clause 11.4 is final.

11.9 Adjournment of General Meeting

- (a) The chairman of a General Meeting may at any time during the meeting adjourn the meeting or any business, motion, question, resolution, debate or discussion being considered or remaining to be considered by the meeting either to a later time at the same meeting or to an adjourned meeting at any time and any place, but:
 - (i) in exercising the discretion to do so, the chairman may, but need not, seek the approval of the Members present in person or by proxy; and
 - (ii) only unfinished business is to be transacted at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.
- (b) Unless required by the chairman, a vote may not be taken or demanded by the Members present in person or by proxy in respect of any adjournment.

11.10 Notice of adjourned meeting

It is not necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at any adjourned meeting unless a meeting is adjourned for 1 month or more. In that case, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as in the case of an original meeting.

11.11 Questions decided by majority

Subject to the requirements of the Corporations Act, a resolution is taken to be carried if a majority of the votes cast by each of:

- (a) the Group Members; and
- (b) the Individual Member Schools,

present (in person, by proxy, or by representative) and voting, are in favour of it.

11.12 Equality of votes – no casting vote for chairman

If there is an equality of votes, either on a show of hands or on a poll, then the chairman of the meeting is not entitled to a casting vote in addition to any votes to which the chairman is entitled as a Member or proxy or attorney or Representative, and consequently the resolution fails.

11.13 Voting on show of hands

- (a) At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is properly demanded and the demand is not withdrawn.
- (b) A declaration by the chairman that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, is conclusive evidence of the fact.
- (c) Neither the chairman nor the minutes need state and it is not necessary to prove the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.

11.14 Poll

If a poll is demanded:

- (a) it must be taken in the manner and at the date and time directed by the chairman and the result of the poll is the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded;
- (b) on the election of a chairman or on a question of adjournment, it must be taken immediately;
- (c) the demand may be withdrawn; and
- (d) the demand does not prevent the continuance of the meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll has been demanded.

11.15 Votes of Members

- (a) Every Member has one vote.
- (b) Subject to this Constitution:
 - (i) on a show of hands, each Member present in person and each other person present as a proxy of a Member has one vote; and
 - (ii) on a poll, each Member present in person has one vote and each person present as proxy of a Member has one vote for each Member that the person represents.

11.16 Right to appoint proxy

- (a) Subject to the Corporations Act, a Member entitled to attend a meeting of AACS is entitled to appoint another Member as proxy to attend in the Member's place at the meeting. A proxy has the same right as the Member to speak and vote at the meeting and may be appointed in respect of more than one meeting.
- (b) The instrument appointing a proxy must be in writing under the hand of the appointor or of their attorney duly authorised in writing or, if the appointor is a corporation, either under seal or under the hand of an officer or attorney duly authorised.
- (c) The instrument appointing a proxy will be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll.
- (d) A Member is entitled to instruct their proxy to vote in favour of or against any proposed resolutions. The proxy may vote as they think fit unless otherwise instructed.
- (e) The instrument appointing a proxy may be in the form set out in Schedule 1 to this Constitution.
- (f) The instrument appointing a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority must be received at the Registered Office, or at such other place within the State, or to an email address, as is specified for that purpose in the notice convening the meeting, not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote, or, in the case of a poll, not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll, and in default the instrument of proxy will not be treated as valid.

11.17 Validity of vote in certain circumstances

Unless AACS has received written notice of the matter before the start or resumption of the meeting at which a person votes as a proxy, attorney or Representative, a vote cast by that person is valid even if, before the person votes, the Member:

- (a) revokes the appointment or authority;

- (b) is wound up;
- (c) is subject to an Insolvency Event.

11.18 Objection to voting qualification

- (a) An objection to the right of an entity to attend or vote at the meeting or adjourned meeting:
 - (i) may not be raised except at that meeting or adjourned meeting; and
 - (ii) must be referred to the chairman of that meeting, whose decision is final.
- (b) A vote not disallowed under the objection is valid for all purposes.

11.19 Circulating resolution of Members

- (a) The Members may pass any resolution that the Corporations Act or this Constitution requires or permits to be passed at a General meeting in the manner set out in this clause without holding a General Meeting.
- (b) A circulating resolution is passed if all of the Members entitled to vote on the resolution:
 - (i) sign a document containing a statement that they are in favour of the resolution set out in the document. Separate copies of a document may be used for signing by Members if the wording of the resolution and statement is identical in each copy; or
 - (ii) send an email to AACS confirming that they agree to a proposed resolution, with the email including the text of the proposed resolution.
- (c) The resolution is passed when the last Member signs or when the last Member's email is received by AACS.
- (d) AACS must notify the auditor (if any) as soon as possible that a circulating resolution has or will be put to the Members, and set out the wording of the resolution. A failure to do so does not invalidate the resolution.

12 The Board

12.1 Number of Directors

The minimum number of Directors shall be 3.

12.2 Composition of the Board

The Board shall be comprised of:

- (a) one Director appointed for a term of 3 years by each of the Group Members from time to time (Appointed Directors). That is, if there are 7 Group Members, there shall be 7 Directors appointed by the Group Members; and
- (b) one Director elected by the Individual Member Schools from time to time (**Elected Director**).

12.3 Elected Director elected at General Meeting

- (a) AACS may, at a General Meeting at which an Elected Director retires or otherwise vacates office, fill the vacated office through election by the Individual Member Schools.
- (b) Individual Member Schools shall have one vote each in electing the Elected Director.
- (c) Individual Members Schools have the right to appoint a proxy in accordance with clause 11.16.

12.4 Terms and retirement of an Elected Director

- (a) Subject to clause 12.8, an Elected Director is elected for a term of 3 years.
- (b) At each Annual General Meeting, any Elected Director who has held office for 3 years or more since last being elected, must retire from office but is eligible for reappointment. A retiring Elected Director holds office until the conclusion of the meeting at which that Director retires.
- (c) The Individual Member Schools may by ordinary resolution increase or decrease the period of time for which an Elected Director holds office under clause 12.4(a).
- (d) The Individual Member Schools may by ordinary resolution remove any Elected Director before the expiration of that Elected Director's period of office, and may by an ordinary resolution appoint another person in the place of that Elected Director.

12.5 Reappointment of Appointed Directors

- (a) A Group Member may at any time remove its Appointed Director from office.
- (b) Subject to clause 12.8, a Group Member shall re-affirm the appointment of each Appointed Director every 3 years from the date of appointment of that Appointed Director. If the Group Member fails to re-affirm the appointment of an Appointed Director, the office of that Appointed Director position becomes vacant.
- (c) Any appointment, re-affirmation or removal of an Appointed Director must be in writing served on AACS.

12.6 Qualification of Directors

- (a) To be eligible for the office of Director a person must:

- (i) subscribe to the Statement of Faith; and
 - (ii) consent in writing to act as a Director.
- (b) In the event that it is required under a law, regulation or guideline applicable to AACS¹, AACS must ensure that a majority of the Board are persons who have the requisite level or degree of responsibility to the general public.

12.7 Appointment of officers

The Board is to appoint the other officers with such frequency as the Board from time to time determine.

12.8 Reappointment of Directors

Subject to clause 12.5(a), Directors are entitled to seek reappointment as Directors on 3 occasions provided that a Director's period of continuous service to AACS does not exceed a period of 12 years.

12.9 Casual vacancy of Directors

- (a) The Board may at any time appoint any person to be a Director to fill a casual vacancy of Directors.
- (b) A Director appointed under clause 10.9(a) holds office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of AACS but is eligible for election at that meeting.

13 Remuneration of Directors

The Directors must not be paid any remuneration for their services as Directors.

14 Expenses of Directors

- (a) A Director is entitled to be reimbursed out of the funds of AACS for such reasonable travelling, accommodation and other expenses as the Director may incur when travelling to or from meetings of the Board or a committee of the Board or when otherwise engaged on the business of AACS.
- (b) Any payment to a Director must be approved by the Board.

15 Vacation of office of Director

In addition to the circumstances in which the office of a Director becomes vacant under the Corporations Act, the office of a Director becomes vacant if the Director:

- (a) ceases to be eligible under clause 12.6;
- (b) no longer subscribes to the Statement of Faith;

¹ Such as where AACS or its public fund is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient and this is a condition for such endorsement.

- (c) resigns from the office by notice in writing to AACS;
- (d) is not present at 3 successive meetings of the Board without leave of absence from the Board;
- (e) becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;
- (f) becomes insolvent or bankrupt, compounds with their creditors, or assigns their estate for the benefit of their creditors;
- (g) becomes prohibited, disqualified or removed from being a Director by reason of any order of any court of competent jurisdiction or regulator; or
- (h) dies.

16 Powers and duties of Directors

16.1 The Board to manage AACS

- (a) The Board are to manage the business of AACS and may exercise all the powers of AACS that are not, by the Corporations Act or by this Constitution, required to be exercised by AACS in General Meeting.
- (b) The Board will cause AACS to be conducted in accordance with the Principles and Commitments, and must use their best endeavours to ensure that the Statement of Faith is honoured in the conduct of AACS.

16.2 Specific powers of the Board

Without limiting the generality of clause 16.1, and subject to any trusts relating to the assets of AACS, the Board may exercise all the powers of AACS to:

- (a) borrow or raise money;
- (b) charge any property or business of AACS;
- (c) give any security for a debt, liability or obligation of AACS or of any other person;
- (d) appoint and remove executive staff;
- (e) determine the terms and conditions of employment of the executive staff;
- (f) determine and approve each of the following:
 - (i) membership fees;
 - (ii) annual budget of AACS;
 - (iii) strategic directions;

- (iv) key organisational policies; and
- (v) the acquisition, establishment, disposal or cessation of any significant business arrangement or assets of AACCS.

16.3 Delegation

- (a) The Board may resolve to delegate any of their powers to:
 - (i) a committee in accordance with clause 24;
 - (ii) a Director;
 - (iii) an employee of AACCS; or
 - (iv) any other person.
- (b) The power may be delegated for such time as determined by the Board and the Board may at any time revoke or vary the delegation.
- (c) The delegate must exercise the powers delegated in accordance with any directions of the Board, and the exercise of the power by the delegate is as effective as if the Board had exercised it.
- (d) The Board may continue to exercise any power they have delegated.

16.4 Meetings of Board

- (a) The Board will meet with the executive staff of AACCS at least four times per year. One of these meetings shall be the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) Costs associated with the meetings of the Board and the office bearers will be borne by AACCS in accordance with a Rule.

17 Rules

Subject to this Constitution, the Board may from time to time by resolution make and rescind or alter Rules which are binding on Members for the management and conduct of the business of AACCS.

18 Appointment of attorney

- (a) The Board may, by power of attorney, appoint any person to be the attorney of AACCS for the purposes and with the powers, authorities and discretions held by the Board for the period and subject to the conditions that they think fit.
- (b) A power of attorney granted under clause 18(a) may contain any provisions for the protection and convenience of persons dealing with the attorney that the Board think fit and may also authorise the attorney to delegate (including by way of appointment of a substitute attorney) all or any of the powers, authorities and discretions of the attorney.

19 Conflicts of interest

19.1 Disclosure of conflict of interest

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 the Board (or that is proposed in a circular resolution):

- (a) to the Board; 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.

19.2 Disclosure recorded in minutes

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

19.3 Material personal interest

Each Director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of the Board (or that is proposed in a circular resolution) must not, except as provided under clause 19.4:

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

19.4 Present and voting

A Director with a material personal interest in a matter may still be present and vote if:

- (a) their interest arises because they are a Member of AACS and the other Members have the same interest;
- (b) their interest relates to an insurance contract that insures, or would insure, the Director against liabilities that the Director incurs as a Director of AACS (see clause 35.2);
- (c) their interest relates to a payment by AACS under clause 35.1, or any contract relating to an indemnity that is allowed under the Corporations Act;
- (d) ASIC makes an order allowing the Director to vote on the matter; or
- (e) the Directors who do not have 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 related to the affairs of AACS; and
 - (ii) says that those Directors are satisfied that the interest should not stop the Director from voting or being present.

20 Proceedings of Board

20.1 Board meetings

- (a) The Board may meet together for conducting business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit.
- (b) A Director may at any time, and the Secretary must on the written request of a Director, convene a meeting of the Board.

20.2 Questions decided by majority

A question arising at a meeting of the Board is to be decided by a majority of votes of Directors present and entitled to vote, and that decision is for all purposes a decision of the Board.

20.3 Alternate Director and voting

- (a) A person who is present at a meeting of the Board as an Alternate Director:
 - (i) is entitled to participate and vote in the appointor's place if the appointor would have been entitled to vote and does not participate in that meeting; and
 - (ii) has one vote for each person for whom they have been appointed as Alternate Director.
- (b) If that person is also a Director, then that person also has one vote as a Director in that capacity.

21 Chairman and deputy chairman of the Board

21.1 Election of chairman and deputy chairman

The Board may elect from their number a chairman and a deputy chairman of their meetings and may also determine the period for which the persons elected as chairman and deputy chairman are to hold office.

21.2 Absence of chairman at Board meeting

If a Board meeting is held and:

- (a) a chairman has not been elected under clause 21.1; or
- (b) the chairman is not present within 10 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unable or unwilling to act;

then the deputy chairman, if elected under clause 21.1, must be the chairman of the meeting or, if the deputy chairman is not present, the Directors present must elect one of their number to be a chairman of the meeting.

21.3 No casting vote for chairman at Board meetings

In the event of an equality of votes cast for and against a question, the chairman of the Board meeting does not have a second or casting vote, and consequently the question is decided in the negative.

22 Alternate Director

22.1 Appointment

- (a) Subject to the Corporations Act, a Director may appoint a person, with the approval of the Board, to be an Alternate Director in the Director's place during such period as the Director thinks fit. The approval of the Alternate Director's appointment may be withdrawn by the Board at any time.
- (b) Subject to the Corporations Act, an appointment of an Alternate Director must be effected by a notice in writing signed by the Director who makes or made the appointment, and delivered to AACS.

22.2 Notice

An Alternate Director is entitled to notice of all meetings of the Board.

22.3 Alternate Director's powers

An Alternate Director may exercise all the powers of the appointor except the power to appoint an Alternate Director and, subject to the Corporations Act, may perform all the duties of the appointor except to the extent that the appointor has exercised or performed them.

22.4 Alternate Director responsible for own acts and defaults

Whilst acting as a Director, an Alternate Director:

- (a) is an officer of AACS and not the agent of the appointor; and
- (b) is responsible to the exclusion of the appointor for the Alternate Director's own acts and defaults.

22.5 Alternate Director and remuneration

An Alternate Director is not entitled to receive from AACS any remuneration or benefit.

22.6 Termination of appointment of Alternate Director

The appointment of an Alternate Director may be terminated at any time by the appointor even if the period, if any, of the appointment of the Alternate Director has not expired, and terminates in any event if the appointor ceases to be a Director.

22.7 Termination in writing

The termination of an appointment of an Alternate Director must be effected by a notice in writing signed by the Director who made the appointment and delivered to AACS.

22.8 Alternate Director and number of Directors

An Alternate Director is not to be taken into account separately from the appointor in determining the number of Directors.

23 Quorum for Board meetings

- (a) At a meeting of the Board, the number of Directors whose presence in person is necessary to constitute a quorum is as determined by the Board, and, unless so determined, is a majority of Directors holding office or 3, whichever is the greater.
- (b) The Board may act despite a vacancy in their number. If their number is reduced below the minimum fixed by clause 12.1, the Board may, except in an emergency, act only for the purpose to convene a General Meeting.

24 Committees

24.1 Delegation to committees

- (a) The Board may delegate any of their powers, to a committee consisting of such one or more of their number as they think fit.
- (b) A committee to which any powers have been delegated under clause 24.1(a) must exercise those powers in accordance with any directions of the Board. A power so exercised is taken to have been exercised by the Board.

24.2 Meetings of committees

A committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

24.3 Chairman of a committee

The members of a committee may elect one of their number as chairman of their meetings. If a meeting of a committee is held and:

- (a) a chairman has not been elected; or
- (b) the chairman is not present within 10 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unable or unwilling to act;

then the committee members involved may elect one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.

24.4 Determination of questions

- (a) Questions arising at a meeting of a committee are to be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting.
- (b) In the event of an equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting does not have a casting vote.

25 Circular resolutions

- (a) The Board may pass a resolution without a Board meeting being held if all of the Directors entitled to vote on the resolution sign a document containing a statement that they are in favour of the resolution set out in the document.
- (b) Separate copies of a document may be used for signing by Directors if the wording of the resolution and statement is identical in each copy.
- (c) The resolution is passed when the last Director signs.

26 Validity of acts of the Board

All acts done at a meeting of the Board or of a committee of the Board, or by a person acting as a Director, are taken as valid as if the relevant person had been duly appointed or had duly continued in office and was qualified and entitled to vote, even if it is afterwards discovered that:

- (a) there was a defect in the appointment or continuance in office of a person as a Director or of the person so acting; or
- (b) a person acting as a Director was disqualified or was not entitled to vote.

27 Secretary

27.1 Appointment of Secretary

There must be at least one Secretary who is to be appointed by the Board for a three year term.

27.2 Suspension and removal of Secretary

The Board may suspend or remove a Secretary from that office at any time.

27.3 Powers, duties and authorities of Secretary

A Secretary holds office on the terms and conditions (including as to remuneration) and with the powers, duties and authorities, as determined by the Board. The exercise of those powers and authorities and the performance of those duties by a Secretary are subject at all times to the control of the Board.

28 Treasurer

28.1 Appointment of Treasurer

The Board may appoint a Treasurer or Treasurers for a three year term.

28.2 Suspension and removal of Treasurer

The Board may suspend or remove a Treasurer from that office at any time.

29 Dispute resolution

29.1 Handling a dispute

Where there is a dispute, grievance or other disagreement between a Member and AACS, whether arising out of the application of these rules or otherwise (**Dispute**), then either party must, prior to the commencement of any proceedings in a Court or Tribunal or before any authority or board, notify the other in writing of the nature of the Dispute, and the following must occur:

- (a) the Member and AACS must in the period of 14 days from the service of the notice of the Dispute (Initial Period) use their best endeavours to resolve the Dispute;
- (b) if AACS and the Member are unable to resolve the Dispute within the Initial Period, then the Dispute must be referred for mediation to a mediator agreed by the Member and AACS;
- (c) if the disputants are unable to agree on a mediator within 7 days of the expiration of the Initial Period, the Member or AACS may request the chairperson of Resolution Institute² to nominate a mediator to whom the Dispute will be referred;
- (d) the costs of the mediation must be shared equally between the Member and AACS; and
- (e) where:
 - (i) the party receiving the notice of the Dispute fails to attend the mediation required by clause 29.1(b);
 - (ii) the mediation has not occurred within 6 weeks of the date of the notice of the Dispute; or
 - (iii) the mediation fails to resolve the Dispute;

then the party serving the notice of Dispute will be entitled to commence any proceedings in a Court or Tribunal or before any authority or board in respect of the Dispute.

² Resolution Institute is a not-for-profit organisation facilitating dispute resolution – further information can be found at www.resolution.institute.

29.2 Urgent interlocutory relief

The procedure in clause 29.1 will not apply in respect of proceedings for urgent or interlocutory relief.

30 Execution of documents

Documents executed for and on behalf of AACS must be executed by:

- (a) 2 Directors;
- (b) a Director and the Secretary; or
- (c) such other persons as the Board by resolution appoint from time to time.

31 Accounts

- (a) The Board must cause proper financial records to be kept and, if required by a law, regulation or guideline applicable to AACS or otherwise considered by the Board to be appropriate, cause the accounts of AACS to be audited or reviewed accordingly.
- (b) The Board must distribute to the Members copies of the annual financial reports of AACS accompanied by a copy of the report of the auditor or reviewer (as required) and report of the Board in accordance with the requirements of a relevant law, regulation or guideline.

32 Seals

32.1 Safe custody of common seals

The Board must provide for the safe custody of any seal of AACS.

32.2 Use of common seal

If AACS has a common seal or duplicate common seal:

- (a) it may be used only by the authority of the Board, or of a committee authorised by the Board to authorise its use; and
- (b) every document to which it is affixed must be signed by a Director and be countersigned by another Director, a Secretary or another person appointed by the Board to countersign that document or a class of documents in which that document is included.

33 Inspection of records

33.1 Inspection by Members

Subject to the Corporations Act, the Board may determine whether and to what extent, and at what times and places and under what conditions, the

accounting records and other documents of AACS or any of them will be open to inspection by the Members.

33.2 Right of a Member to inspect

A Member does not have the right to inspect any document of AACS except as provided by law or authorised by the Board or by AACS in General Meeting.

34 Service of documents

34.1 Document includes notice

In this clause 34, a reference to a document includes a notice.

34.2 Methods of service

- (a) AACS may give a document to a Member:
 - (i) personally;
 - (ii) by sending it by post to the address for the Member in the Register or an alternative address nominated by the Member; or
 - (iii) by sending it to an electronic address nominated by the Member.
- (b) A document sent by post:
 - (i) if sent to an address in Australia, may be sent by ordinary post and is taken to have been received 2 business days after the date of its posting; and
 - (ii) if sent to an address outside Australia, must be sent by airmail and is taken to have been received on the 7th business day after the date of its posting.
- (c) If a document is sent by electronic transmission, delivery of the document is taken:
 - (i) to be effected by properly addressing and transmitting the electronic transmission; and
 - (ii) to have been delivered on the day following its transmission.

34.3 Evidence of service

A certificate in writing signed by a Director or a Secretary stating that a document was sent to a Member by post or electronic transmission on a particular date is prima facie evidence that the document was so sent on that date.

35 Indemnity and insurance

35.1 Indemnity

AACS may indemnify any current or former Director, Secretary or executive officer of AACS or of a Related Body Corporate of AACS out of the property of AACS against:

- (a) every liability incurred by the person in that capacity; and
- (b) all legal costs incurred in defending or resisting (or otherwise in connection with) proceedings, whether civil or criminal or of an administrative or investigatory nature, in which the person becomes involved because of that capacity,

except to the extent that:

- (c) AACS is forbidden by legislation to indemnify the person against the liability or legal costs; or
- (d) an indemnity by AACS of the person against the liability or legal costs would, if given, be made void by legislation.

35.2 Insurance

AACS may pay or agree to pay, whether directly or through an interposed entity, a premium for a contract insuring a person who is or has been a Director or Secretary or executive officer of AACS or of a Related Body Corporate of AACS against liability arising out of conduct by the person in that capacity (**Relevant Conduct**), including a liability for legal costs, unless:

- (a) AACS is forbidden by legislation to pay or agree to pay the premium in respect of the Relevant Conduct (whether or not the legislation applies in the particular case); or
- (b) the contract would, if AACS paid the premium, be made void by legislation.

35.3 Contract

AACS may enter into an agreement with a person referred to in clauses 35.1 and 35.2 with respect to the matters covered by these clauses. An agreement entered into pursuant to this clause 35 may include provisions relating to rights of access to the books of AACS conferred by the Corporations Act or otherwise by law.

36 Amendment to Constitution

- (a) Subject to clause 36(c), this Constitution may only be amended by Special Resolution of the Members of AACS.
- (b) The Members must not pass a Special Resolution that amends this Constitution if passing it causes AACS to no longer be a charity.

- (c) Any modification of this Constitution takes effect on the date the Special Resolution is passed or any later date specified, or provided for, in the resolution.

Schedule 1

(see clause 11.1 or 11.16(e))

Appointment of Representative or Proxy

**Australian Association of Christian Schools Limited
ACN 125 196 929**

I/We, (name)

of (address)

being a Member of the abovenamed Company hereby appoint

..... (name)

of (address)

or in their absence (name)

of (address)

as its Representative or proxy to vote for it on its behalf at the meeting of the members of AACCS to be held on the day of 20 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

[If appropriate, replace the above wording with “as its Representative or proxy to vote for it on its behalf at meetings of the members of AACCS from [meeting date] and until this notice is revoked in writing.”]

[TO BE INSERTED IF DESIRED] This form is to be used in favour of / against the resolution (Strike out whichever is not desired)

[INSERT DETAILS OF SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS IF DESIRED]

Signed:

Name:

Dated:

This notice must be returned to Australian Association of Christian Schools Limited ACN 125 196 929 at [ADDRESS/EMAIL ADDRESS/FAX No] by [TIME] on [DATE] [INSERT SPECIFIC DETAILS ENSURING THAT THE TIME IS 48 HOURS BEFORE THE TIME FOR THE MEETING].