



## **Constitution**

### **Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Limited**

**ACN 000 399 744**

**A Public Company Limited by Guarantee**

## Contents

1	Definitions and interpretation.....	4
2	Object of the Company.....	6
3	Powers.....	6
4	Application of income for Object only.....	7
5	Winding up.....	7
6	Membership.....	8
7	Ceasing to be a Member.....	10
8	General Meetings.....	11
9	Proceedings at General Meetings.....	13
10	Directors.....	16
11	Remuneration of Directors.....	18
12	Expenses of Directors.....	18
13	Vacation of office of Director.....	18
14	Powers and duties of Directors.....	19
15	Rules.....	20
16	Chief Executive Officer, Secretary and Public Officer.....	20
17	Appointment of attorney.....	20
18	Conflicts of interest.....	21
19	Proceedings of Directors.....	22
20	Chairperson and deputy chairperson of Directors.....	22
21	Alternate Director.....	23
22	Quorum for Directors' meeting.....	23
23	Committees.....	24
24	Circular resolutions.....	24
25	Validity of acts of Directors.....	24
26	Dispute resolution.....	25
27	Execution of documents.....	26
28	Financial records.....	26
29	Seals.....	26
30	Inspection of records.....	26
31	Service of documents.....	26
32	Indemnity and insurance.....	27

33	Amendment to Constitution .....	28
	Schedule 1.....	29

## 1 Definitions and interpretation

### 1.1 Definitions

In this Constitution unless a contrary intention appears:

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

**Alternate Director** means a person appointed as an alternate director under clause 21.1.

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

**ASIC** means the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

**Company** means Guide Dogs NSW/ACT being an Australian public company limited by guarantee established under the Corporations Act which bears the ACN 000 399 744.

**Constitution** means this constitution as amended from time to time.

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

**Deductible Contributions** means a contribution of money or property as described in item 7 or item 8 of the table in section 30-15 of the Tax Act in relation to a fundraising event held for that purpose.

**Director** means an individual holding office as director of the Company.

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

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

**Gifts** means gifts of money or property for the principal purpose of the Company.

**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.

**Life Member** means a Member honoured as a life member under clause 6.7.

**Member** means a person entered on the Register of the Company as a member and includes Life Members.

**Object** means the object of the Company as 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 the Company.

**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 the Company in accordance with the Corporations Act.

**Rule** means a rule made by the Directors in accordance with clause 15.

**Schedule** means a schedule to this Constitution.

**Secretary** means an individual appointed as a secretary of the Company in accordance with clause 16.

**Special Resolution** takes the meaning given by Section 9 of the Corporations Act.

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

## 1.2 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) “includes” in any form is not a word of limitation;
- (d) a reference to a law includes regulations and instruments made under the law;
- (e) a reference to a clause is a reference to a clause in this Constitution unless otherwise stated;
- (f) 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;
- (g) a reference to a meeting includes a meeting by technology where all attendees have reasonable opportunity to participate;
- (h) a reference to a person being present in person includes an individual participating in a meeting as described in clause 1.2(g);
- (i) a reference to a person being present includes an individual participating in a meeting in person or through a proxy, attorney or Representative;
- (j) a reference to a person includes a natural person, corporation or other body corporate;
- (k) “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
- (l) Australian dollars, dollars, A\$ or \$ is a reference to the lawful currency of Australia.

## 1.3 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 Directors.

## **1.4 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 the Company is a registered charity under the ACNC Act:
  - (i) subject to clause 1.4(c)(ii), the provisions of the Corporations Act in Part 2G.2 and Part 2G.3 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 the Company.

## **1.5 Headings**

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

## **1.6 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 the Company.

## **2 Object of the Company**

The Object of the Company is to pursue the charitable purpose of alleviating the suffering and disadvantage of persons with disabilities and persons experiencing illness, disease, ailments or helplessness, including by:

- (a) training and supplying guide dogs to persons who are blind or have a vision impairment;
- (b) training and supplying aids and services other than trained guide dogs to assist in the orientation, mobility and daily living skills of persons who are blind or have a vision impairment;
- (c) training and supplying animals, including companion animals, for use by:
  - (i) persons with a physical, intellectual, mental, social or emotional impairment, illness or disability; and
  - (ii) persons or groups of people experiencing disadvantage or helplessness; and
- (d) doing such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Object, including by undertaking, providing and/or funding research, education and clinical services aimed at the prevention or cure of blindness and sight loss.

## **3 Powers**

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

## **4 Application of income for Object only**

### **4.1 Application of income and property**

The income and the property of the Company, 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, benefit or otherwise.

### **4.2 Payment in good faith**

Clause 4.1 does not prevent payment, directly or indirectly, in good faith to a Member:

- (a) of reasonable remuneration for services to the Company;
- (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 4.2(c) by the Company in a General Meeting;
- (d) of reasonable rent for premises let by a Member; or
- (e) in furtherance of the Object.

## **5 Winding up**

### **5.1 Guarantee by Members**

- (a) Each Member undertakes to contribute to the Company's property if the Company 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 the Company'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 \$1.

### **5.2 Application of property**

- (a) If any property remains on the winding up or dissolution of the Company and after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, then, subject always to clause 5.3, that property may not be paid to or distributed among the Members but must be transferred to one or more funds or institutions:
  - (i) that have charitable purposes similar to, or inclusive of, the Object; and
  - (ii) are not-for-profit entities 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 the Company under this Constitution.

- (b) The funds or institutions will be determined by the Members at or before the time of dissolution.

### **5.3 Transfer of surplus assets – deductible gift recipients**

Where the Company has been endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-BA of the Tax Act, then where:

- (a) the Company is wound up; or
- (b) the endorsement under Subdivision 30-BA of the Tax Act is revoked;

any surplus:

- (c) Gifts;
- (d) Deductible Contributions; and
- (e) money received by the Company because of such Gifts or Deductible Contributions;

remaining after payment of all liabilities must be transferred to one or more funds or institutions that comply with clause 5.2 and are each deductible gift recipients.

## **6 Membership**

### **6.1 Number of Members**

- (a) The minimum number of Members of the Company will be 6.
- (b) The Members (including the Honorary Members and Auxiliary Members) of the Company at the date of adoption of this Constitution and any person the Directors admit to membership under clause 6.2 are the Members of the Company.

### **6.2 Admission as a Member**

The Directors may admit any person as a Member if the person is eligible under clause 6.3 and makes an application in accordance with clause 6.4.

### **6.3 Membership criteria**

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

- (a) consent in writing to become a Member; and
- (b) agree to be bound by this Constitution.

### **6.4 Membership process**

- (a) The application for membership must be made:
  - (i) in writing, signed by the applicant;
  - (ii) in such form as the Directors may from time to time prescribe; and
  - (iii) accompanied by the membership fee, if any, determined by the Directors.
- (b) Each application for membership must be considered by the Directors 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 Directors within a reasonable period.

#### **6.5 Directors' discretion to admit or refuse admission as a Member**

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

#### **6.6 Registration as Member**

If the Directors accept an application for membership, as soon as practicable, the Directors must cause the name of the person to be entered in the Register.

#### **6.7 Life Members**

- (a) The Directors may honour any Member as a Life Member, who:
  - (i) has rendered long and valued service to the Company; or
  - (ii) has demonstrated exceptional commitment to pursuing the Company's Object over time.
- (b) Honorary members of the Company immediately prior to adoption of this Constitution are Life Members.
- (c) Life Members are not a separate class of Member under this Constitution. A Member that is honoured as a Life Member continues to have the same rights as a Member under this Constitution.
- (d) Clauses 6.8 and 6.9 of this Constitution do not apply to Life Members.
- (e) A Life Member ceases to be a Life Member on:
  - (i) death;
  - (ii) resignation by written notice to the Company having immediate effect or with effect from a specified date occurring not more than seven days after the service of the notice;
  - (iii) becoming of unsound mind or a person whose personal estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under a law related to mental health; or
  - (iv) the passing of a resolution by the Directors to remove the life membership of a Life Member.

#### **6.8 Membership terms**

- (a) From the date of adoption of this Constitution, Members are admitted for a term of 3 years ending on 30 September following the 3 year anniversary of the date each Member's name is entered on the Register or the date of each Member's last renewal, or such other period as determined by the Directors.
- (b) At the end of the membership term, each Member may reapply for membership. The renewal process must be made in accordance with the process prescribed by the Directors at the relevant time.
- (c) This clause does not apply to a Member who is also a Director.

## **6.9 Membership fees**

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

## **6.10 Register**

- (a) The Company 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; and
    - (D) date the Member was entered on to the Register.
  - (ii) for each person who 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; and
    - (D) date the membership started and ended.
- (b) The Company must provide access to the Register in accordance with the Corporations Act.

## **7 Ceasing to be a Member**

### **7.1 Cessation of membership**

A Member ceases to be a Member on:

- (a) in the case of an individual, death or, in the case of a body corporate, its ceasing to exist;
- (b) resignation by written notice to the Company 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 Directors from time to time within 12 months after the fee was due and payable;
- (d) in the case of an individual, becoming of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under a law related to mental health;
- (e) in the case of a body corporate, immediately before the Member becoming subject to an Insolvency Event;
- (f) in the case of an individual, becoming bankrupt or insolvent or making an arrangement or composition with creditors of a person's joint or separate estate generally;
- (g) the passing of a resolution by the Members in General Meeting or the Directors in accordance with clause 7.2;

- (h) the expiry of the 3 year term of membership, unless the Member had applied for and been readmitted as a Member for the following term as contemplated in clause 6.8;
- (i) that Member ceasing to be a Director.

## **7.2 Termination of membership**

- (a) Subject to this Constitution, the Members in General Meeting or the Directors 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 Directors;
  - (ii) engages in conduct which in the opinion of the Directors is unbecoming of the Member or prejudicial to the interests of the Company; or
  - (iii) fails to pay any debt due to the Company within a period of 3 months after the date for payment (such debt not including a fee referred to in clause 7.1(c)).
- (b) For a decision of the Members in General Meeting or the Directors under clause 7.2(a) to be effective, the general nature of the allegations made against the Member must be notified to the Member in writing and the Member must be given a reasonable opportunity to respond.
- (c) If a dispute arises regarding the termination of a Member's membership under this clause 7.2, the dispute resolution procedure contained in clause 26 must be followed and, for the purposes of clause 26.1, written notification under clause 7.2(b) will be the notice of the dispute (as defined in clause 26.1).

## **7.3 Limited liability**

The Members have no liability as Members except as set out in clause 5.1.

## **8 General Meetings**

### **8.1 Annual General Meetings**

Annual General Meetings of the Company are to be held in accordance with the Corporations Act.

### **8.2 Convening a General Meeting**

The Directors 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.

### **8.3 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 31.
- (b) A Director is entitled to receive notice of and to attend all General Meetings and is entitled to speak at those meetings.

### **8.4 Calculation of period of notice**

In computing the period of notice under clause 8.3, 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.

## **8.5 Cancellation or postponement of General Meeting**

- (a) Where a General Meeting is convened by the Directors 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 8.5 does not apply to a meeting convened in accordance with the Corporations Act by Members, by the Directors on the request of Members or to a meeting convened by a Court.

## **8.6 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.

## **8.7 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.

## **8.8 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 8.3.

## **8.9 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.

## **8.10 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 operation of this clause 8.10, 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 the Company 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.

### **8.11 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.

## **9 Proceedings at General Meetings**

### **9.1 Number of a quorum**

- (a) A majority of Members or 10 Members, whichever is the lesser number, present are a quorum at a General Meeting.
- (b) In determining whether a quorum is present, each individual attending as a proxy appointed under clause 9.15 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.

### **9.2 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 chairperson of the meeting (on the chairperson's own motion or at the request of a Member or proxy who is present) declares otherwise.

### **9.3 If quorum not present**

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

- (a) 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 Directors appoint by notice to the Members and others entitled to notice of the meeting.

### **9.4 Adjourned meeting**

At a meeting adjourned under clause 9.3(b), 2 Members present 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.

### **9.5 Appointment and powers of chairperson of General Meeting**

If the Directors have elected one of their number as chairperson of their meetings under clause 20.1, that person is also entitled to preside as chairperson at a General Meeting.

## **9.6 Absence of chairperson at General Meeting**

If a General Meeting is held and:

- (a) a chairperson has not been elected by the Directors; or
- (b) the elected chairperson 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 chairperson of the meeting (in order of precedence):

- (c) the deputy chairperson if a Director has been so elected by the Directors under clause 20.1; or
- (d) a Director or Member elected by the Members present in person to preside as chairperson of the meeting.

## **9.7 Conduct of General Meetings**

- (a) The chairperson 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 chairperson'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 chairperson considers it necessary or desirable for the proper conduct of the meeting.
- (b) A decision by the chairperson under this clause 9.7 is final.

## **9.8 Adjournment of General Meeting**

- (a) The chairperson 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 chairperson may, but need not, seek the approval of the Members present; and
  - (ii) only unfinished business is to be transacted at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.
- (b) Unless required by the chairperson, a vote may not be taken or demanded by the Members present in person or by proxy in respect of any adjournment.

## **9.9 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.

#### **9.10 Questions decided by majority**

Subject to the requirements of the Corporations Act, a resolution of Members is taken to be carried if a simple majority of the votes cast on the resolution are in favour of it.

#### **9.11 Equality of votes – casting vote for chairperson**

If there is an equality of votes for a resolution of Members, either on a show of hands or on a poll, then the chairperson of the meeting is entitled to a casting vote in addition to any votes to which the chairperson is entitled as a Member or proxy or attorney or Representative.

#### **9.12 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 (or, where the meeting is being conducted by technology, such other similar method as determined by the chairperson) unless a poll is properly demanded and the demand is not withdrawn.
- (b) A declaration by the chairperson 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 chairperson 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.

#### **9.13 Poll**

If a poll is demanded:

- (a) it must be taken in the manner and at the date and time directed by the chairperson and the result of the poll is the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded;
- (b) on the election of a chairperson 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.

#### **9.14 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.

#### **9.15 Right to appoint proxy**

- (a) Subject to the Corporations Act, a Member entitled to attend a meeting of the Company is entitled to appoint another person (whether a Member or not) 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 signed by the appointor or their attorney duly authorised in writing or, if the appointor is a corporation, either under seal or signed by 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 (along with a certified copy of the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed) must be received at the address stated in the notice or the Registered Office not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting or, in the case of a poll, not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll. Documents received after this time will not be treated as valid.

#### **9.16 Validity of vote in certain circumstances**

Unless the Company 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:

- (a) the appointing Member dies;
- (b) the Member revokes the appointment or authority; or
- (c) the Member is mentally incapacitated.

#### **9.17 Objection to voting qualification**

- (a) An objection to the right of a person 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 chairperson of that meeting, whose decision is final.
- (b) A vote not disallowed under the objection is valid for all purposes.

### **10 Directors**

#### **10.1 Number of Directors**

The number of Directors must be such number between 6 and 11 as the Members determine. In the absence of any such determination, the number of Directors will be 9.

## 10.2 Directors elected at General Meeting

The Company may, at a General Meeting at which:

- (a) a Director retires or otherwise vacates office; or
  - (b) a Director vacancy exists by operation of clause 10.1 or otherwise,
- by resolution fill the vacated office by electing an individual to that office.

## 10.3 Qualification of Directors

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

- (a) meet any eligibility requirements as determined by the Directors in writing from time to time;
- (b) be a Member;
- (c) not be an employee of the Company; and
- (d) consent in writing to act as a Director.

## 10.4 Appointment of officers

The Directors are to appoint the other officers with such frequency as the Directors from time to time determine.

## 10.5 Terms and retirement of Directors

- (a) Subject to clause 10.6, from the date of adoption of this Constitution, Directors are elected for terms of 3 years (excluding any period of casual vacancy).
- (b) At each Annual General Meeting, any Director who has held office for 3 years or more since last being elected, must retire from office but subject to clause 10.6 is eligible for reappointment. A retiring Director holds office until the conclusion of the meeting at which that Director retires.
- (c) The Members may by ordinary resolution increase or decrease the period of time for which a Director holds office under clause 10.5(a).
- (d) The Members may by ordinary resolution remove any Director before the expiration of that Director's period of office, and may by an ordinary resolution appoint another person in the place of that Director.

## 10.6 Reappointment of Directors

- (a) Subject to clauses 10.6(b) and 10.6(c), Directors are entitled to seek reappointment as Directors on 2 occasions provided that a Director's period of continuous service (excluding any periods of casual vacancy) to the Company does not exceed a period of 9 years.
- (b) (Transitional Provision)
  - (i) This clause 10.6(b) applies to Directors at the date of adoption of this constitution (**Incumbent Board**). The object of this clause 10.6(b) is to enable an orderly transition of the Incumbent Board following the adoption of a maximum term of service under clause 10.6(a).

- (ii) If a Director to whom this clause applies has 9 years or more of continuous service as a Director (excluding any periods of casual vacancy) at the time he or she seeks reappointment, then, notwithstanding such previous service, the Director is eligible for reappointment on one more occasion. The reappointment is for a further term of 3 years.
- (iii) Any Director reappointed pursuant to this clause 10.6(b) also remains eligible for reappointment under clause 10.6(c).
- (c) In certain circumstances as determined by the Directors from time to time, the Directors may resolve by a majority vote to allow a Director who has exceeded or will exceed the period of continuous service under clauses 10.6(a) or 10.6(b) to seek reappointment as a Director.

#### **10.7 Casual vacancy or additional Director**

- (a) The Directors may at any time appoint any person meeting the requirements of clause 10.3 to be a Director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Directors, provided the total number of Directors does not exceed the maximum number in clause 10.1.
- (b) A Director appointed under clause 10.7(a) holds office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company but is eligible for election at that meeting.

#### **11 Remuneration of Directors**

- (a) Subject to clause 11(b), the Directors must not be paid any remuneration for their services as Directors.
- (b) The chairperson (as elected under clause 20.1) may, with the prior approval of the Members, be paid reasonable remuneration for his or her services as chairperson.

#### **12 Expenses of Directors**

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

#### **13 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 10.3(b), 10.3(c) and 10.3(d);
- (b) resigns from the office by notice in writing to the Company;
- (c) is not present at 3 successive meetings of the Directors without leave of absence from the Directors;
- (d) 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;
- (e) becomes insolvent or bankrupt, compounds with their creditors, or assigns their estate for the benefit of their creditors;

- (f) becomes prohibited, disqualified or removed from being a Director by reason of any order of any court of competent jurisdiction or regulator; or
- (g) dies.

## **14 Powers and duties of Directors**

### **14.1 Directors to manage the Company**

The Directors are to manage the business of the Company and may exercise all the powers of the Company that are not, by the Corporations Act or by this Constitution, required to be exercised by the Company in General Meeting.

### **14.2 Specific powers of Directors**

Without limiting the generality of clause 14.1, and subject to any trusts relating to the assets of the Company, the Directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to:

- (a) borrow or raise money;
- (b) charge any property or business of the Company; and
- (c) give any security for a debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any other person.

### **14.3 Compliance with duties under the Law**

Each Director must comply with:

- (a) the duties described in governance standard 5 as set out in the regulations made under the ACNC Act; and
- (b) such other obligations in a law, regulation or guideline, applicable to the Company from time to time.

### **14.4 Delegation**

- (a) The Directors may resolve to delegate any of their powers to:
  - (i) a committee in accordance with clause 23;
  - (ii) a Director;
  - (iii) an employee of the Company; or
  - (iv) any other person.
- (b) The power may be delegated for such time as determined by the Directors and the Directors may at any time revoke or vary the delegation.
- (c) The delegate must exercise the powers delegated in accordance with any directions of the Directors, and the exercise of the power by the delegate is as effective as if the Directors had exercised it.
- (d) The Directors may continue to exercise any power they have delegated.

## **15 Rules**

Subject to this Constitution, the Directors 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 the Company.

## **16 Chief Executive Officer, Secretary and Public Officer**

### **16.1 Chief Executive Officer**

- (a) The Directors may appoint a Chief Executive Officer on such terms and conditions (including as to remuneration) as they think fit.
- (b) The Directors may delegate any of their powers to the Chief Executive Officer:
  - (i) on the terms and subject to any restrictions they decide; and
  - (ii) so as to be concurrent with, or to the exclusion of, the powers of the Board,and may revoke the delegation at any time.
- (c) The Chief Executive Officer may be invited to attend all meetings of the Directors, but may not hold the office of a Director and is not entitled to vote.

### **16.2 Secretary**

- (a) There must be at least one Secretary who is to be appointed by the Directors.
- (b) The Directors may suspend or remove a Secretary from that office.
- (c) A Secretary holds office on the terms and conditions (including as to remuneration) and with the powers, duties and authorities, as determined by the Directors. 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 Directors.

### **16.3 Public officer**

The Directors must appoint a person as Public Officer of the Company in accordance with the *Income Tax Act Assessment Act 1936* (Cth).

## **17 Appointment of attorney**

- (a) By power of attorney, the Directors may appoint any person to be an attorney of the Company, which such powers, authorities and discretions of the Directors as the Directors think fit and for such purposes, period and conditions as determined by the Directors.
- (b) A power of attorney granted under clause 17(a) may contain any provisions for the protection and convenience of the attorney and persons dealing with the attorney that the Directors 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.

## **18 Conflicts of interest**

### **18.1 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 Directors (or that is proposed in a circular resolution):

- (a) to the 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.

### **18.2 Disclosure recorded in minutes**

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

### **18.3 Material personal interest**

Each Director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of the Directors (or that is proposed in a circular resolution) must not, except as provided under clause 18.4:

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

### **18.4 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 the Company and the other Members have the same interest;
- (b) their interest arises in relation to remuneration as a Director of the Company;
- (c) their 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 32.2);
- (d) their interest relates to a payment by the Company under clause 32.1, or any contract relating to an indemnity that is allowed under the Corporations Act;
- (e) ASIC makes an order allowing the Director to vote on the matter; or
- (f) 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 the Company; and
  - (ii) states that those Directors are satisfied that the interest should not stop the Director from voting or being present.

## **19 Proceedings of Directors**

### **19.1 Directors' meetings**

- (a) The Directors 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 Directors.

### **19.2 Questions decided by majority**

A question arising at a meeting of Directors 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 Directors.

### **19.3 Alternate Director and voting**

- (a) A person who is present at a meeting of Directors 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.

## **20 Chairperson and deputy chairperson of Directors**

### **20.1 Election of chairperson and deputy chairperson**

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

### **20.2 Absence of chairperson at Directors' meeting**

If a Directors' meeting is held and:

- (a) a chairperson has not been elected under clause 20.1; or
- (b) the chairperson 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 chairperson, if elected under clause 20.1, must be the chairperson of the meeting or, if the deputy chairperson is not present, the Directors present must elect one of their number to be a chairperson of the meeting.

### **20.3 Casting vote for chairperson at Directors' meetings**

In the event of an equality of votes cast for and against a resolution, the chairperson of the Directors' meeting has a second or casting vote.

## **21 Alternate Director**

### **21.1 Appointment**

- (a) Subject to the Corporations Act, a Director may appoint a person, with the approval of the Directors, 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 Directors 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 the Company.

### **21.2 Notice**

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

### **21.3 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.

### **21.4 Alternate Director responsible for own acts and defaults**

Whilst acting as a Director, an Alternate Director:

- (a) is an officer of the Company 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.

### **21.5 Alternate Director and remuneration**

An Alternate Director is entitled to receive from the Company any remuneration or benefit of the Director in whose place the Alternate Director is standing.

### **21.6 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.

### **21.7 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 the Company.

### **21.8 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.

## **22 Quorum for Directors' meeting**

- (a) At a meeting of Directors, the number of Directors whose presence in person is necessary to constitute a quorum is as determined by the Directors, and, unless so determined, is a majority of Directors holding office or 3, whichever is the greater.

- (b) The Directors may act despite a vacancy in their number. If their number is reduced below the minimum fixed by clause 10.1, the Directors may, except in an emergency, act only for the purpose of filling vacancies to the extent necessary to bring their number up to that minimum or to convene a General Meeting.

## **23 Committees**

### **23.1 Delegation to committees**

- (a) The Directors may delegate any of their powers, to a committee consisting of one or more Directors and such other persons as the Directors think fit.
- (b) A committee to which any powers have been delegated under clause 23.1(a) must exercise those powers in accordance with any directions of the Directors. A power so exercised is taken to have been exercised by the Directors.

### **23.2 Meetings of committees**

A committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

### **23.3 Chairperson of a committee**

- (a) The Directors must appoint a Director as chairperson of a committee.
- (b) If a meeting of a committee is held and:
  - (i) a chairperson has not been appointed; or
  - (ii) the chairperson 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 the members of the committee to be chairperson of the meeting.

### **23.4 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 chairperson of the meeting does not have a casting vote.

## **24 Circular resolutions**

- (a) The Directors may pass a resolution without a Directors' meeting being held if a majority 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 comprising a majority of the Directors entitled to vote on the resolution signs.

## **25 Validity of acts of Directors**

All acts done at a meeting of the Directors or of a committee of Directors, 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.

## **26 Dispute resolution**

### **26.1 Handling a dispute**

Where there is a dispute, grievance or other disagreement between a Member and the Company, 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 the Company 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 the Company 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 the Company;
- (c) if the disputants are unable to agree on a mediator within 7 days of the expiration of the Initial Period, the Member or the Company may request the chairperson of Resolution Institute<sup>1</sup> 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 the Company; and
- (e) where:
  - (i) the party receiving the notice of the Dispute fails to attend the mediation required by clause 26.1(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.

### **26.2 Urgent interlocutory relief**

The procedure in clause 26.1 will not apply in respect of proceedings for urgent or interlocutory relief.

---

<sup>1</sup> Resolution Institute is a not-for-profit organisation facilitating dispute resolution – further information can be found at [www.resolution.institute](http://www.resolution.institute).

## **27 Execution of documents**

Documents executed for and on behalf of the Company must be executed by:

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

## **28 Financial records**

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

## **29 Seals**

### **29.1 Safe custody of common seals**

The Directors must provide for the safe custody of any seal of the Company.

### **29.2 Use of common seal**

If the Company has a common seal or duplicate common seal:

- (a) it may be used only by the authority of the Directors, or of a committee authorised by the Directors 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 Directors to countersign that document or a class of documents in which that document is included.

## **30 Inspection of records**

### **30.1 Inspection by Members**

Subject to the Corporations Act, the Directors may determine whether and to what extent, and at what times and places and under what conditions, the accounting records and other documents of the Company or any of them will be open to inspection by the Members (other than Directors).

### **30.2 Right of a Member to inspect**

A Member (other than a Director) does not have the right to inspect any document of the Company except as provided by law or authorised by the Directors or by the Company in General Meeting.

## **31 Service of documents**

### **31.1 Document includes notice**

In this clause 31, a reference to a document includes a notice.

### **31.2 Methods of service**

- (a) The Company 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **31.3 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.

## **32 Indemnity and insurance**

### **32.1 Indemnity**

- (a) The Company must indemnify any current or former Director, Secretary or executive officer of the Company or of a Related Body Corporate of the Company out of the property of the Company against:
    - (i) every liability incurred by the person in that capacity; and
    - (ii) 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:
- (iii) the Company is forbidden by law (including the Corporations Act) to indemnify the person against the liability or legal costs;
  - (iv) an indemnity by the Company of the person against the liability or legal costs would, if given, be made void by any law; or
  - (v) the person is entitled to be, and is actually, indemnified by another person (including an insurer under any insurance policy).

- (b) The indemnity is a continuing obligation and is enforceable by a person even though they are no longer a Director, Secretary or executive officer of the Company, or of a wholly owned subsidiary.

### **32.2 Insurance**

The Company 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 the Company or of a Related Body Corporate of the Company against liability arising out of conduct by the person in that capacity (**Relevant Conduct**), including a liability for legal costs, unless:

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

### **32.3 Contract**

The Company may enter into an agreement with a person referred to in clauses 32.1 and 32.2 with respect to the matters covered by these clauses. An agreement entered into in accordance with this clause 32 may include provisions relating to rights of access to the books of the Company conferred by the Corporations Act or otherwise by law.

### **33 Amendment to Constitution**

- (a) Subject to clause 33(c), this Constitution may only be amended by Special Resolution of the Members of the Company.
- (b) The Members must not pass a Special Resolution that amends this Constitution if passing it causes the Company 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**

**Appointment of Proxy - (see clause 9.15(e))**

**Guide Dogs NSW/ACT  
ACN 000 399 744**

I/We, ..... (name)  
of ..... (address)  
being a member/members of the abovenamed Company hereby appoint  
..... (name)  
of ..... (address)  
or in their absence ..... (name)  
of ..... (address)  
as my/our proxy to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the meeting of the members of the Company  
to be held on the ..... day of ..... 20 ..... and at any  
adjournment of that meeting.

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

**[INSERT DETAILS OF SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS IF DESIRED]**

Signed: .....

Name: .....

Dated: .....

This notice must be returned to Guide Dogs NSW/ACT ACN 000 399 744 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]**