

CONSTITUTION
OF
The Shia Muslim Council of
Australia

ACN: 675 836 843
ABN: 28 675 836 843

A company limited by guarantee

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Preliminary

1. Name of the company

The name of the Company is the Muslim Community Council of Australia Ltd.

2. Type of company

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

3. Liability of Members limited to the guarantee

3.1 Each Company Member must contribute an amount not more than \$100 (the guarantee) to the property of the Company if the Company is wound up:

- (a) while the Company Member is a Member, or within 12 months after they stop being a Member, and
- (b) at the time of winding up, the debts and liabilities of the Company, including the costs of winding up, incurred before the Company Member stopped being a Company Member exceed the Company's assets.

3.2 The liability of each Company Member is limited to the amount of the guarantee at clause 3.1.

3.3 Each Associate Member must contribute an amount not more than \$1.00 (the guarantee) to the property of the Company if the Company is wound up:

- (a) while the Associate Member is a Member, and
- (b) at the time of winding up, the debts and liabilities of the Company, including the costs of winding up, incurred before the Associate Member stopped being a Member exceed the Company's assets.

3.4 The liability of each Associate Member is limited to the amount of the guarantee at clause 3.3.

4. Company Structure

4.1 The Company will be made up of:

- (a) Company Members.
- (b) Associate Members.
- (c) A Board comprising 3-7 Directors elected from the Company Member Representatives.
- (d) Committees appointed by the Board.

Charitable purposes and powers

5. Object

5.1 The Company's object is to pursue the following charitable purpose(s):

- (a) To facilitate positive engagement between the Muslim community and the wider Australian community, partly by advocating for mutual respect and

harmony between the Australian Muslim community and the wider Australian community.

- (b) Working towards eliminating discrimination against the Muslim Community, through promoting equality, diversity and understanding.
- (c) To advocate for the rights of Australian Muslims in practising their faith freely;
- (d) Advancing education, religion, culture, social and public welfare and promoting and protecting human rights by:
 - i. instilling in the community a mindset to invest in Australia and allow it to flourish to its independent potential;
 - ii. supporting the community in attaining a vision of a long-term, multi-generational citizenship of Australia;
 - iii. supporting the community in being able to fully practice their faith;
 - iv. supporting the community in responding to discrimination and empower them to use established legal channels to address all instances of discrimination;
 - v. supporting the community in being able to express their views freely with the bounds of legal constraint; and to have a voice commensurate with the size of their population in Australia;
 - vi. coordinating and supporting effective defence (legal, media and political) against threats to the community's practices, faith, institutions, education, expression, equality of opportunity, movement, travel, prosperity, the preservation of wealth, and other rights that come with citizenship; and
- (e) In pursuance of and without limiting the generality of the objects, the Company may and intends to:
 - (f) Bring together organisations within the Shia Muslim community to work in a coordinated manner towards shared goals, and to have a coordinated and unified representation to the government and media.
 - (g) Provide education to the Shia Muslim community about issues that may impact their ability to practice their faith in Australia and provide avenues to address these issues.
 - (h) Communicate with the government, media and other relevant bodies to advocate for the rights of the Shia Muslim community and voice their concerns with regards to matters relating to their faith and ability to practice their faith.
 - (i) Engage with the relevant bodies and organisations to prepare legal and other submissions, and raise national awareness on the introduction laws on religious vilification, Islamophobic behaviour and hate.
 - (j) Encourage the Shia Muslim community to get involved with political matters at a state and federal level.
 - (k) Assist Muslim women with relevant issues affecting them including but not limited to education, employment and leadership roles, physical and mental health matters and violence against women.

- (l) To do all lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects at clause 5.1 or any one of them either alone or in conjunction with any other corporation, firm, association, company or person and either as principals, agents, contractors, trustees or otherwise.

6. Powers

Subject to clause 7, the Company has all the powers of a company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act which may only be used to carry out its purpose(s) set out in clause 5.

7. Not-for-profit

- 7.1 The income and property of the Company will only be applied towards the promotion of the objects of the Company set out in clause 5.1.
- 7.2 The Company must not distribute any income or assets directly or indirectly to its Members, except as provided in clauses 7.3 and 71.
- 7.3 Clause 7.1 does not stop the Company from doing the following things, provided they are done in good faith:
 - (a) paying a Member for goods or services they have provided or expenses they have properly incurred at fair and reasonable rates or rates more favourable to the Company, or
 - (b) making a payment to a Member in carrying out the Company's charitable purpose(s).

8. Amending the constitution

- 8.1 Subject to clause 8.3, the members may amend this constitution by passing a Special Resolution.
- 8.2 Any amendment to this constitution will take effect from the date of the Special Resolution, or from any later date specified in the resolution.
- 8.3 The members must not pass a Special Resolution that amends this constitution if passing it would mean the Company would no longer be a charity.

Members

9. Membership and register of Members

- 9.1 The Members of the Company are those:
 - (a) Company Members at the time of incorporation of the Company and adoption of this Constitution, and
 - (b) any Member admitted by the Directors, in accordance with this constitution,that have not since ceased to be a Member.
- 9.2 The Company must establish and maintain a register of members. The register of members must be kept by the secretary and must contain:
 - (a) for each current Member:

- i. name (including any ACN/ABN or Incorporated number if applicable)
 - ii. address
 - iii. any alternative address nominated by the Member for the service of notices, and
 - iv. date the Member was entered on to the register
 - (b) for each Member who stopped being a Member in the last 7 years:
 - i. name (including any ACN/ABN or Incorporated number if applicable)
 - ii. address
 - iii. any alternative address nominated by the Member for the service of notices, and
 - iv. dates the membership started and ended
- 9.3 The Company must allow Members to inspect the register of members.
- 9.4 Information that is accessed from the register of members must only be used in a manner relevant to the interests or rights of Members.

10. Who can be a Company Member

- 10.1 An organisation who supports the purposes of the Company is eligible to apply to be a Company Member under clause 12.

11. Who can be an Associate Member

- 11.1 A person is entitled to apply for Associate Membership under clause 12 to serve on any committee established by the directors under clause 45 provided they are 18 years or older and are a member of a Company Member.
- 11.2 An Associate Member will only be granted membership for the duration of their appointment on a committee established by the directors. Upon dissolution of the committee the Associate Members membership will also be dissolved.

12. How to apply to become a Member

- 12.1 A person or organisation may apply to become a Member by writing to the secretary stating that they:
- (a) want to become a Member
 - (b) support the purpose(s) of the Company, and
 - (c) agree to comply with the Company's constitution, including paying any guarantee under clause 4 if required.

13. Directors decide whether to approve membership

- 13.1 The directors must consider an application for membership within a reasonable time after the secretary receives the application.
- 13.2 If the directors approve an application, the secretary must as soon as possible:
- (a) enter the new Member on the register of members, and
 - (b) write to the applicant to tell them that their application was approved, and the date that their membership started (see clause 14).
- 13.3 If the directors reject an application:

- (a) the secretary must write to the applicant as soon as possible to tell them that their application has been rejected.
 - (b) the directors do not have to give reasons.
- 13.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the directors may approve an application even if the application does not state the matters listed in clauses 12(a), 12(b) or 12(c). In that case, by applying to be a Member, the applicant agrees to those three matters.
- 14. When a Member becomes a Member**
 - 14.1 An applicant will become a Member when they are entered on the register of members.
- 15. Membership fees**
 - 15.1 Each Member must pay a joining fee and an annual membership fee, unless the directors decide otherwise.
 - 15.2 Unless the directors decide otherwise, at the time of adoption of this constitution there is no joining fee or annual membership fee.
 - 15.3 A Member that has not paid the required membership fee in accordance with this clause may not exercise any of the rights associated with that Member's membership, including the right to exercise any vote the Member may have at a meeting of Members.
- 16. Transfer of membership**
 - 16.1 Membership of the Company and the associated rights cannot be transferred or sold.
- 17. When a Member stops being a Member**
 - 17.1 A Member immediately stops being a Member if they:
 - (a) fail to pay any required membership fee in accordance with clause 15 within one month after the date on which that membership fee becomes due or such later time as the directors may determine,
 - (b) is wound up or otherwise dissolved or deregistered (for an incorporated member),
 - (c) requests its removal as a Member in writing to the Directors,
 - (d) is expelled under clause 19, or
 - (e) has not responded within three months to a written request from the secretary that it confirm in writing that it wants to remain a Member.

Dispute resolution and disciplinary procedures

18. Dispute resolution

- 18.1 The dispute resolution procedure in this clause applies to disputes (disagreements) under this constitution between a Member or director and:
 - (a) one or more Members

- (b) one or more directors, or
 - (c) the Company.
- 18.2 A Member must not start a dispute resolution procedure in relation to a matter which is the subject of a disciplinary procedure under clause 19 until the disciplinary procedure is completed.
- 18.3 Those involved in the dispute must try to resolve it between themselves within 14 days of knowing about it, or within a timeframe agreed by those involved.
- 18.4 If those involved in the dispute do not resolve it under clause 18.3, they must within 10 days (or within a timeframe agreed by those involved):
- (a) tell the directors about the dispute in writing
 - (b) agree or request that a mediator be appointed, and
 - (c) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- 18.5 The mediator must:
- (a) be chosen by agreement of those involved, or
 - (b) where those involved do not agree:
 - i. for disputes between Members, a person chosen by the directors, or
 - ii. for other disputes, a person chosen by the president of the law institute or society in the state or territory in which the Company has its registered office.
- 18.6 A mediator chosen by the directors under clause 18.5(b)(i):
- (a) may be a current or former Member of the Company
 - (b) must not have a personal interest in the dispute, and
 - (c) must not be biased towards or against anyone involved in the dispute.
- 18.7 When conducting the mediation, the mediator must:
- (a) allow those involved a reasonable chance to be heard
 - (b) allow those involved a reasonable chance to review any written statements
 - (c) ensure that the mediation is conducted in a manner free from bias, and
 - (d) not make a decision on the dispute.

19. Disciplining members

- 19.1 In accordance with this clause, the directors may resolve to warn, suspend, or expel a Member if the directors consider that:
- (a) It has breached this constitution, or
 - (b) It's behaviour (or the behaviour of its Members) is causing, has caused, or is likely to cause harm to the Company.

- 19.2 At least 14 days before the directors' meeting at which a resolution under clause 19.1 will be considered, the secretary must notify the Member in writing:
- (a) that the directors are considering a resolution to warn, suspend or expel the Member
 - (b) that this resolution will be considered at a directors' meeting and the date of that meeting
 - (c) what the Member is said to have done or not done
 - (d) the nature of the resolution that has been proposed, and
 - (e) that the Member may provide an explanation to the directors, and details of how to do so.
- 19.3 Before the directors pass any resolution under clause 19.1, the Member must be given a chance to explain or defend themselves by:
- (a) sending the directors a written explanation before that directors' meeting, and/or
 - (b) speaking at the meeting.
- 19.4 After considering any explanation under clause 19.3, the directors may:
- (a) take no further action
 - (b) warn the Member
 - (c) suspend the Member's rights as a Member for a period of no more than 12 months
 - (d) expel the Member
 - (e) refer the decision to an unbiased, independent person on conditions that the directors consider appropriate (however, the person can only make a decision that the directors could have made under this clause), or
 - (f) require the matter to be determined at a General Meeting.
- 19.5 The directors cannot fine a Member.
- 19.6 The secretary must give written notice to the Member of the decision under clause 19.4 as soon as possible.
- 19.7 Disciplinary procedures must be completed as soon as reasonably practical.
- 19.8 There will be no liability for any loss or injury suffered by the Member as a result of any decision made in good faith under this clause.

General meetings of members

20. Calling a General Meeting

- 20.1 The directors may call a General Meeting, including an Annual General Meeting.
- 20.2 If members with at least 80% of the votes that may be cast at a General Meeting make a written request to the Company for a General Meeting to be held for a proper purpose, the directors must:

- (a) within 21 days of the members' request, give all members notice of a General Meeting, and
 - (b) hold the General Meeting within 2 months of the members' request.
- 20.3 The percentage of votes that members have (in clause 20.2) is to be worked out as at midnight before the members request the meeting.
- 20.4 The members who make the request for a General Meeting must:
 - (a) state in the request any resolution to be proposed at the meeting
 - (b) sign the request, and
 - (c) give the request to the Company.
- 20.5 The members making the request may sign the request by signing a physical form of the document by hand or by signing an electronic form of the document using electronic means, which identifies the person and indicates the person's intention.
- 20.6 Separate copies of a document setting out the request may be signed by members if the wording of the request is the same in each copy.
- 20.7 If the directors do not call the meeting within 21 days of being requested under clause 20.2, 50% or more of the members who made the request may call and arrange to hold a General Meeting.
- 20.8 To call and hold a meeting under clause 20.7 the members must:
 - (a) as far as possible, follow the procedures for General Meetings set out in this constitution,
 - (b) call the meeting using the list of Members on the Company's register of members, which the Company must provide to the members making the request at no cost, and
 - (c) hold the General Meeting within three months after the request was given to the Company.

21. Using technology to hold meetings

- 21.1 The Company may hold a General Meeting at two or more venues using any **virtual meeting platform** or using a **virtual meeting platform** only, where the platform gives members a reasonable opportunity to participate, including to hear and be heard.
- 21.2 Anyone using this platform is taken to be present in person at the meeting.
- 21.3 If the General Meeting is held using a **virtual meeting platform** only, then
 - (a) The place of the meeting is taken to be the registered office of the Company, and
 - (b) The time of the meeting is taken to be the time at the registered office of the Company.
- 21.4 If the General Meeting is held at more than one physical venue (whether or not it is also held using a **virtual meeting platform**), then:

- (a) The place of the meeting is taken to be the main physical venue of the meeting as set out in the notice of the meeting, and
- (b) The time of the meeting is taken to be the time at the main physical venue of the meeting as set out in the notice of the meeting.

22. Notice of General Meetings

- 22.1 Notice of a General Meeting must be given to:
- (a) each Member entitled to vote at the meeting
 - (b) each director, and
 - (c) the auditor (if any).
- 22.2 Notice of a General Meeting must be provided in writing at least 21 days before the meeting.
- 22.3 Subject to clause 22.4, notice of a General Meeting may be provided less than 21 days before the meeting if members with at least 95% of the votes that may be cast at the meeting agree beforehand.
- 22.4 Notice of a General Meeting cannot be provided less than 21 days before the meeting if a resolution will be moved to:
- (a) remove a director
 - (b) appoint a director in order to replace a director who was removed, or
 - (c) remove an auditor.
- 22.5 Notice of a General Meeting must include:
- (a) the place, date and time for the meeting (and if the meeting is to be held in two or more places or virtually, the **virtual meeting platform** that will be used to facilitate this)
 - (b) a statement regarding the Member's right to request documents be sent in electronic or physical form
 - (c) the general nature of the meeting's business
 - (d) if applicable, that a Special Resolution is to be proposed and the words of the proposed resolution, and
 - (e) a statement that Members have the right to appoint proxies and that, if a Member appoints a proxy:
 - i. the proxy does not need to be a Member of the Company
 - ii. the proxy form must be delivered to the Company at its registered address or the address (including an electronic address) specified in the notice of the meeting, and
 - iii. the proxy form must be delivered to the Company at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- 22.6 If a General Meeting is adjourned for one month or more, the Members must be given new notice of the resumed meeting.

23. Quorum at General Meetings

- 23.1 For a General Meeting to be held, at least 65% of Members (a quorum) must be present (in person, by proxy or by representative) for the whole meeting. When determining whether a quorum is present, a person may only be counted once (even if that person is a representative or proxy of more than one Member).
- 23.2 No business may be conducted at a General Meeting if a quorum is not present.
- 23.3 If there is no quorum present within 30 minutes after the starting time stated in the notice of General Meeting, the General Meeting is adjourned to the date, time and place that the Chairperson specifies. If the Chairperson does not specify one or more of those things, the meeting is adjourned to:
- (a) if the date is not specified – the same day in the next week
 - (b) if the time is not specified – the same time, and
 - (c) if the place is not specified – the same place.
- 23.4 If no quorum is present at the resumed meeting within 30 minutes after the starting time set for that meeting, the meeting is cancelled.

24. Right of non-members to attend meetings

- 24.1 The Chairperson of a General Meeting may invite any person to attend and address a meeting.
- 24.2 Any auditor and any director of the Company is entitled to attend and address a General Meeting.
- 24.3 The Company must give the auditor (if any) any communications relating to the General Meeting that a Member of the Company is entitled to receive.

25. Representatives of members

- 25.1 A Company Member will appoint as a representative:
- (a) one individual to represent the Company Member at meetings and to sign resolutions under clause 31, and
- 25.2 The appointment of a Representative by a Member must:
- (a) be in writing
 - (b) include the name of the Representative
 - (c) be signed on behalf of the Company Member, and
 - (d) be given to the Company or, for representation at a meeting, be given to the Chairperson before the meeting starts.
- 25.3 The appointed Representative of a Company Member will be appointed as a director of the Company.
- 25.4 A Representative has all the rights of a Member relevant to the purposes of the appointment as a Representative of a Company Member.
- 25.5 The appointment of a Representative will be standing unless and until revoked by the Company Member.

26. Chairperson for General Meetings

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

27. Role of the Chairperson

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

28. Adjournment of meetings

- 28.1 If a quorum is present, a General Meeting must be adjourned if a majority of Members Present direct the Chairperson to adjourn it.
- 28.2 Only unfinished business may be dealt with at a meeting resumed after an adjournment.

Members' resolutions and statements

29. Members' resolutions and statements

- 29.1 Members with at least 65% of the votes that may be cast on a resolution may give:
- (a) written notice to the Company of a resolution they propose to move for a proper purpose at a General Meeting (**members' resolution**), and/or
 - (b) a written request to the Company that the Company give all of its Members a statement about a proposed resolution or any other matter that may properly be considered at a General Meeting (**members' statement**).
- 29.2 A notice of a members' resolution must set out the wording of the proposed resolution and be signed by the Members proposing the resolution.
- 29.3 A request to distribute a members' statement must set out the statement to be distributed and be signed by the Members making the request.
- 29.4 Separate copies of a document setting out the notice or request may be signed by Members if the wording is the same in each copy.
- 29.5 The percentage of votes that Members have (as described in clause 29.1) is to be worked out as at midnight before the request or notice is given to the Company.

29.6 If the Company has been given notice of a members' resolution for a proper purpose under clause 29.1(a), the resolution must be considered at the next General Meeting held more than two months after the notice is given.

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

30. Company must give notice of proposed resolution or distribute statement

30.1 If the Company has been given a notice or request under clause 29:

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

30.2 The Company does not need to send the notice of proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement to Members if:

- (a) it is more than 1000 words long
- (b) the directors consider it may be defamatory
- (c) clause 30.1(b) applies, and the Members who proposed the resolution or made the request have not paid the Company enough money to cover the cost of sending the notice of the proposed members' resolution or a copy of the members' statement to Members, or
- (d) in the case of a proposed members' resolution, the resolution does not relate to a matter that may be properly considered at a General Meeting or is otherwise not a valid resolution able to be put to the Members.

31. Resolutions without meetings

31.1 Subject to clause 31.3, the directors may put a resolution to the Members to pass a resolution without a General Meeting being held.

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

31.3 The Company cannot pass resolutions for the below without holding a meeting:

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

31.4 A resolution is passed if all the Members entitled to vote on the resolution sign or agree to the resolution, in the manner set out in clause 31.5 or clause 30.6.

- 31.5 Members may sign:
- (a) a single document setting out the resolution and containing a statement that they agree to the resolution, or
 - (b) separate copies of that document, as long as the wording is the same in each copy.
- 31.6 The Company may send a resolution by email to Members and Members may agree by sending a reply email to that effect, including the text of the resolution in their reply.

Voting at general meetings

32. How many votes a Member has

- 32.1 Each Company Member has one vote.
- 32.2 Associate Members do not have any right to vote.

33. Challenge to Member's right to vote

- 33.1 A Member or the Chairperson may only challenge a person's right to vote at a General Meeting at that meeting.
- 33.2 If a challenge is made under clause 33.1, the Chairperson must decide whether or not the person may vote. The Chairperson's decision is final.

34. How voting is carried out

- 34.1 Voting must be conducted and decided by:
- (a) a show of hands
 - (b) a vote in writing, or
 - (c) another method chosen by the Chairperson that is fair and reasonable in the circumstances.
- 34.2 Before a vote is taken, the Chairperson must note whether any proxy votes have been received and, if so, how the proxy votes will be cast.
- 34.3 On a show of hands, the Chairperson's decision is conclusive evidence of the result of the vote.
- 34.4 The Chairperson and the meeting minutes do not need to state the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour or against on a show of hands.

35. When and how a vote in writing must be held

- 35.1 A vote in writing may be demanded on any resolution instead of or after a vote by a show of hands by:
- (a) at least five Members Present who are entitled to vote on the relevant resolution,
 - (b) Members Present with at least 5% of the votes that may be passed on the relevant resolution (worked out as at the midnight before the vote in writing is demanded), or

- (c) The Chairperson of the meeting.
- 35.2 A vote in writing must be taken when and how the Chairperson directs, unless clause 35.3 applies.
- 35.3 A vote in writing must be held immediately if it is demanded under clause 35.1:
 - (a) For the election of a Chairperson under clause 26.2, or
 - (b) To decide whether to adjourn the meeting.
- 35.4 A demand for a vote in writing may be withdrawn.

36. Appointment of proxy

- 36.1 A Company Member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote at a General Meeting on its behalf.
- 36.2 A proxy does not need to be a Member.
- 36.3 A proxy appointed to attend and vote for a Company Member has the same rights as the Company Member to:
 - (a) speak at the meeting
 - (b) vote in a vote in writing (but only to the extent allowed by the appointment), and
 - (c) join in to demand a vote in writing under clause 35.1.
- 36.4 An appointment of proxy (proxy form) must be signed by the Company Member appointing the proxy and must contain:
 - (a) the Company Member's name and address
 - (b) the proxy's name or the name of the office held by the proxy, and
 - (c) the meeting(s) at which the appointment may be used.
- 36.5 A proxy appointment may be standing (ongoing).
- 36.6 Proxy forms must be received by the Company at the address stated in the notice under clause 22.5(e) or at the Company's registered address at least 48 hours before a meeting.
- 36.7 A proxy does not have the authority to speak and vote for a Company Member at a meeting while the Company Member is at the meeting.
- 36.8 Unless the Company receives written notice before the start or resumption of a General Meeting at which a proxy votes, a vote cast by the proxy is valid even if, before the proxy votes, the appointing Company Member:
 - (a) revokes the proxy's appointment, or
 - (b) revokes the authority of a representative or agent who appointed the proxy, or
 - (c) is wound up or otherwise dissolved or deregistered (for an incorporated member).
- 36.9 A proxy appointment may specify the way the proxy must vote on a particular resolution.

37. Voting by proxy

- 37.1 A proxy is not entitled to vote on a show of hands (but this does not prevent a Member appointed as a proxy from voting as a Member on a show of hands).
- 37.2 When a vote in writing is held, a proxy:
- (a) does not need to vote, unless the proxy appointment specifies the way they must vote
 - (b) if the way they must vote is specified on the proxy form, must vote that way, and
 - (c) if the proxy is also a Member or holds more than one proxy, may cast the votes held in different ways.

Directors

38. Number and Relationship of directors

- 38.1 The Company must have at least three and no more than seven directors.
- 38.2 No more than one third of the directors are to be members of the same family or reside at the same address at any time.

39. Election and appointment of directors

- 39.1 The Initial Directors are the people who have agreed to act as directors and who are named as proposed directors in the application for registration of the Company. The Initial Directors will act in the capacity as directors for up to 6 months from the date of registration of the Company. On a date no more than 6 months from the date of registration of the Company, the Company must replace the Initial Directors with the Representatives of the Company Members. In the event the Representatives exceed 7 Representatives then the directors will be elected in accordance with clauses 32 to 35 in a General Meeting.
- 39.2 Despite clause 39.1, the Initial Directors cannot be removed until there are at least 3 Representatives to be appointed as directors.
- 39.3 A Representative of a Company Member is appointed as a director upon their appointment as a Representative pursuant to clause 25. Upon membership of the Company exceeding seven Company Members, the directors will be elected in accordance with clauses 32 to 35 in a General Meeting and to be eligible for election as a director of the Company each Representative must:
- (a) be a Representative of a Company Member (appointed under clause 25),
 - (b) give the Company their signed consent to act as a director of the Company, and
 - (c) not be ineligible to be a director under the Corporations Act or the ACNC Act.
- 39.4 Each of the directors must be appointed by a separate resolution, unless:
- (a) the Members Present have first passed a resolution that the appointments may be voted on together, and

- (b) no votes were cast against that resolution.
- 39.5 Subject to clause 38, the directors may appoint a person as a director to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional director if that person:
- (a) a Representative of a Company Member (appointed under clause 25)
 - (b) is 18 years of age or older
 - (c) gives the Company their signed consent to act as a director of the Company, and
 - (d) is not ineligible to be a director under the Corporations Act or the ACNC Act.
- 39.6 If the number of directors is reduced to fewer than three or is less than the number required for a quorum, the continuing directors may act but only:
- (a) in an emergency
 - (b) for the purpose of increasing the number of directors to three (or higher if required for a quorum), or
 - (c) to call a General Meeting.

40. Election of Chairperson

40.1 The directors must elect a director as the Company's Chairperson.

41. Term of office

41.1 Other than a director appointed under clause 39.5, a director's term of office starts at the end of the General Meeting at which they are elected and ends at the end of the General Meeting at which they retire.

42. When a director stops being a director

42.1 A director stops being a director if they:

- (a) give written notice of resignation as a director to the Company
- (b) die
- (c) are removed as a director by a resolution of the members
- (d) stop being a Representative of the Company Member
- (e) are a Representative of a Company Member, and that Company Member stops being a member
- (f) are a Representative of a Company Member, and the Company Member notifies the Company that the Representative is no longer a Representative
- (g) are absent for 3 consecutive directors' meetings without approval from the directors, or
- (h) become ineligible to be a director of the Company under the Corporations Act or the ACNC Act.

Powers of directors

43. Powers of directors

- 43.1 The directors are responsible for managing and directing the activities of the Company to carry out the purpose(s) set out in clause 5.
- 43.2 The directors may use all the powers of the Company except for powers that, under the Corporations Act or this constitution, may only be used by members.
- 43.3 The directors must decide on the responsible financial management of the Company including:
 - (a) any suitable written delegations of power under clause 44, and
 - (b) how money will be managed, such as how electronic transfers, negotiable instruments or cheques must be authorised and signed or otherwise approved.
- 43.4 The directors cannot remove a director or auditor. Directors and auditors may only be removed by a members' resolution at a General Meeting.

44. Delegation of directors' powers

- 44.1 The directors may delegate any of their powers and functions to a committee, a director, an employee of the Company (such as a chief executive officer) or any other person, as they consider appropriate.
- 44.2 The Company must keep appropriate records of any delegations and must supervise any committees or other delegations.

45. Committee by delegation

- 45.1 In establishing a committee pursuant to clause 44.1, the directors:
 - (a) will appoint Associate Members who are granted membership of the Company in accordance with clause 12 and 13, as members of the committee,
 - (b) will have the power to determine the rules and regulations which will govern the committee which can be amended at any time,
 - (c) may withdraw any delegation of its powers to the committee at any time and for any reason.

46. Payments to directors

- 46.1 The Company must not pay directors' fees.
- 46.2 The Company may:
 - (a) pay a director for work they do for the Company, other than as a director, if the amount is no more than a reasonable fee for the work done, or
 - (b) reimburse a director for expenses properly incurred by the director in connection with the affairs of the Company.
- 46.3 Any payment made under clause 46.2 must be approved by the directors.

47. Execution of documents

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

- (a) two directors of the Company
- (b) a director and the secretary, or
- (c) or some other person or combination of persons appointed by the board for that purpose,

whether by signing a physical form of the document by hand or by signing an electronic form of the document using electronic means, which identifies the person and indicates the person's intention.

48. Validity

48.1 An act done by a director or by a meeting of the directors or a committee attended by a director is not invalid just because:

- (a) of a defect in the appointment of the director
- (b) the person is disqualified from being a director or has vacated office, or
- (c) the person is not entitled to vote,

if that circumstance was not known by the person or the directors or committee, as the case may be, when the act was done.

Duties of directors

49. Duties of directors

49.1 The directors must comply with their duties:

- (a) to exercise their powers and discharge their duties with the degree of care and diligence that a reasonable individual would exercise if they were a director of the Company
- (b) to act in good faith in the best interests of the Company and to further the charitable purpose(s) of the Company set out in clause 5.
- (c) not to misuse their position as a director
- (d) not to misuse information they gain in their role as a director
- (e) to disclose any perceived or actual material conflicts of interest in the manner set out in clause 50
- (f) to ensure that the financial affairs of the Company are managed responsibly, and
- (g) not to allow the Company to operate while it is insolvent.

50. Conflicts of interest

50.1 A director must disclose the nature and extent of any actual or perceived material conflict of interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of directors (or that is proposed in a resolution to be passed under cl 57):

- (a) to the other directors, or
 - (b) if all of the directors have the same conflict of interest, to the Members at the next General Meeting, or at an earlier time if reasonable to do so.
- 50.2 The disclosure of a conflict of interest by a director must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 50.3 Each director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting of directors (or that is proposed in a resolution to be passed under cl 57) must not:
- (a) be present at the meeting while the matter is being discussed, or
 - (b) vote on the matter,
- except as provided under clauses 50.4.
- 50.4 A director may still be present and vote if:
- (a) their interest arises because they are a Member of the Company, and the other Member 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 the Company (see clause 67)
 - (c) their interest relates to a payment by the Company under clause 66 (indemnity), or any contract relating to an indemnity that is allowed under the Corporations Act
 - (d) the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) makes an order allowing the director to vote on the matter, or
 - (e) the directors who do not have a material personal interest in the matter pass a resolution that:
 - i. identifies the director, the nature and extent of the director's interest in the matter and how it relates to the affairs of the Company, and
 - ii. says that those directors are satisfied that the interest should not stop the director from voting or being present.

Directors' meetings

51. When the directors meet

51.1 The directors may decide how often, where and when they meet.

52. Calling directors' meetings

52.1 A director may call a directors' meeting by giving reasonable notice to all of the other directors.

52.2 A director may give notice in writing or by any other means of communication that has previously been agreed to by all of the directors.

53. Chairperson for directors' meetings

53.1 The Chairperson is entitled to chair directors' meetings.

53.2 The directors at a directors' meeting may choose a director to chair that meeting if the Chairperson is:

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

54. Quorum at directors' meetings

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

54.2 A quorum must be present for the whole directors' meeting.

55. Using technology to hold directors' meetings

55.1 The directors may hold their meetings by using any virtual meeting platform that is agreed to by all of the directors.

55.2 The directors' agreement may be a standing (ongoing) one.

55.3 A director may only withdraw their consent within a reasonable period before the meeting.

56. Passing directors' resolutions

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

57. Resolutions of directors without a meeting

57.1 The directors may pass a resolution without a directors' meeting being held.

57.2 A resolution is passed if all the directors entitled to vote on the resolution sign or otherwise agree to the resolution in the manner set out in clause 57.3 or clause 57.4.

57.3 Each director may sign:

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

57.4 The Company may send a resolution by email to the directors and the directors may agree to the resolution by sending a reply email to that effect, including the text of the resolution in their reply.

57.5 The resolution is passed when the last director signs or otherwise agrees to the resolution in the manner set out in clause 57.3 or clause 57.4.

Secretary

58. Appointment and role of secretary

- 58.1 The Company must have at least one secretary, who may also be a director.
- 58.2 A secretary must be appointed by the directors (after giving the Company their signed consent to act as secretary of the Company) and may be removed by the directors.
- 58.3 The directors must decide the terms and conditions under which the secretary is appointed, including any remuneration.
- 58.4 The secretary must ensure that the following are maintained:
 - (a) a register of the Company's Members, and
 - (b) the minutes and other records of General Meetings (including notices of meetings), directors' meetings and resolutions.

Minutes and records

59. Minutes and records

- 59.1 The Company must, within one month, make and keep the following records:
 - (a) minutes of proceedings and resolutions of General Meetings
 - (b) minutes of any other resolutions of Members
 - (c) a copy of a notice of each General Meeting, and
 - (d) a copy of a members' statement distributed to Members under clause 30.
- 59.2 The Company must, within one month, make and keep the following records:
 - (a) minutes of proceedings and resolutions of directors' meetings (including meetings of any committees), and
 - (b) minutes of any other resolutions of directors.
- 59.3 To allow Members to inspect the Company's records:
 - (a) the Company must give a Member access to the records set out in clause 59.1, and
 - (b) the directors may authorise a Member to inspect other records of the Company, including records referred to in clause 59.2 and clause 60.1.
- 59.4 The directors must ensure that minutes of a General Meeting or a directors' meeting are signed within a reasonable time after the meeting by:
 - (a) the Chairperson of the meeting, or
 - (b) the Chairperson of the next meeting.
- 59.5 The directors must ensure that minutes of the passing of a resolution passed without a meeting (of Members or directors) are signed by a director within a reasonable time after the resolution is passed.

60. Financial and related records

- 60.1 The Company must make and keep written financial records that:
- (a) correctly record and explain its transactions and financial position and performance, and
 - (b) enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared and to be audited.
- 60.2 The Company must also keep written records that correctly record its operations.
- 60.3 The Company must retain its records for at least 7 years.
- 60.4 The directors must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Company's records are kept safe.

Notice

61. What is notice

- 61.1 Anything written to or from the Company under any clause in this constitution is written notice and is subject to clauses 62 to 64, unless specified otherwise.
- 61.2 Clauses 62 to 64 do not apply to a notice of proxy under clause 36.6.

62. Notice to the company

- 62.1 Written notice or any communication under this constitution may be given to the Company, the directors or the secretary by:
- (a) delivering it to the Company's registered office
 - (b) posting it to the Company's registered office or to another address chosen by the Company for notice to be provided
 - (c) sending it to an email address or other electronic address notified by the Company to the Members as the Company's email address or other electronic address, or
 - (d) sending it to the fax number notified by the Company to the Members as the Company's fax number.

63. Notice to Members

- 63.1 Written notice or any communication under this constitution may be given to a Member:
- (a) in person
 - (b) by posting it to, or leaving it at the address of the Member in the register of members or an alternative address (if any) nominated by the Member for service of notices
 - (c) sending it to the email or other electronic address nominated by the Member as an alternative address for service of notices (if any)
 - (d) sending it to the fax number nominated by the Member as an alternative address for service of notices (if any), or

- (e) if agreed to by the Member, by notifying the Member at an email or other electronic address nominated by the Member, that the notice is available at a specified place or address (including an electronic address).
- 63.2 If a Member elects to receive documents in physical form or electronic form, the Company must take reasonable steps to send documents in a manner that complies with the election.
- 63.3 If the Company does not have an address for the Member, the Company is not required to give notice in person.

64. When notice is taken to be given

- 64.1 A notice:
- (a) delivered in person, or left at the recipient's address: is taken to be given on the day it is delivered
 - (b) sent by post: is taken to be given on the third business day after it is posted to the address notified by the recipient and payment of postage costs
 - (c) sent by email, fax or other electronic method: is taken to be given when it is sent, unless the sender receives an automated message that the notice has not been delivered, and
 - (d) given under clause 63.1(e): is taken to be given on the business day after the notification that the notice is available is sent.
- 64.2 If the delivery or receipt of a notice is on a day which is not a business day or is after 5.00pm on a business day, it is deemed to be received at 9.00am on the following business day.

Financial matters

65. Company's financial year

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

Indemnity, insurance and access

66. Indemnity

- 66.1 The Company indemnifies each officer of the Company out of the assets of the Company, to the extent permitted by law (including the Corporations Act), against all losses and liabilities (including costs, expenses and charges) incurred by that person as an officer of the Company.
- 66.2 In this clause, 'officer' means a director or secretary and includes a director or secretary after they have ceased to hold that office.
- 66.3 The indemnity is a continuing obligation and is enforceable by an officer:
- (a) even though that person is no longer an officer of the Company, and

- (b) is enforceable without that person having first to incur any expense or make any payment.

67. Insurance

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

68. Directors' access to documents

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

68.2 The directors may resolve to give a director or former director access to other records, including documents provided for or available to the directors.

Winding up

69. Winding up voluntarily

69.1 If permitted by law, the Company may be wound up voluntarily by Special Resolution.

70. Surplus assets not to be distributed to Members

70.1 If the Company is wound up, any surplus assets must not be distributed to a Member or a former Member of the Company, unless that Member or former Member is a charity described in clause 71.1.

71. Distribution of surplus assets

71.1 Subject to the Corporations Act and any other applicable Act, and any court order, any surplus assets that remain after the Company is wound up must be distributed to one or more charities:

- (a) with charitable purpose(s) similar to, or inclusive of, the purpose(s) in clause 4, and
- (b) which also prohibit the distribution of any surplus assets to its Members to at least the same extent as the Company.

71.2 The decision as to the charity or charities to be given the surplus assets must be made by a Special Resolution of Members at or before the time of winding up. If the Members do not make this decision, the Company may apply to the Supreme Court to make this decision.

Definitions and interpretation

72. Definitions

72.1 In this constitution:

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

business day means a day on which banks are open for business excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays in the place where the Company's registered office is located.

Associate Member means a Member of the Company defined in clause 11.

Committee means a committee established by the directors of the Company in accordance with clauses 44 and 45.

Company means the Muslim Community Council of Australia Ltd.

Company Member means a Member of the Company defined in clause 10.

Corporations Act means the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

Chairperson means a person elected by the directors to be the Company's Chairperson under clause 40.

General Meeting means a meeting of Members.

Member Present means, in connection with a General Meeting, a member present in person, by representative or by proxy at the meeting.

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

Representative means a nominated representative of a Company Member defined in clause 25.

Special Resolution means a resolution:

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

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

Virtual Meeting Platform means any technology that allows Members to participate in a meeting, including by asking questions orally and in writing, without being physically present at the meeting.

73. Reading this constitution with the Corporations Act

- 73.1 The replaceable rules set out in the Corporations Act do not apply to the Company.
- 73.2 While the Company is a registered charity, the ACNC Act and the Corporations Act override any clauses in this constitution which are inconsistent with those Acts, as they apply to a registered charity.
- 73.3 If the Company is not a registered charity (even if it remains a charity), the Corporations Act overrides any clause in this constitution which is inconsistent with that Act.
- 73.4 A word or expression that is defined in the Corporations Act, or used in that Act and covering the same subject, has the same meaning as in this constitution.

74. Interpretation

74.1 In this constitution:

- (a) the words 'including', 'for example', or similar expressions mean that there may be more inclusions or examples than those mentioned after that expression, and
- (b) reference to an Act includes every amendment, re-enactment, or replacement of that Act and any subordinate legislation made under that Act (such as regulations).