



CONSTITUTION

OF

Dr AMBEDKAR INTERNATIONAL MISSION

AUSTRALIA LTD

2024

Australian Business Number
(ABN) 28681464200

A company limited by guarantee

Contents

Preliminary.....	3
Charitable purposes and powers	3
Members	5
Dispute resolution and disciplinary procedures	8
General meetings of members.....	10
Members' resolutions and statements.....	14
Voting at general meetings	15
Directors.....	17
Powers of directors	19
Duties of directors.....	20
Directors' meetings	22
Secretary.....	23
Minutes and records	23
Notice	24
Financial matters.....	25
Indemnity, insurance and access	26
Winding up	26
Definitions and interpretation	27

Preliminary

1. Name of the company

The name of the **company** is
Dr Ambedkar International Mission Australia (AIM) Ltd (the AIM).

2. Type of company

The **AIM** 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 member must contribute an amount not more than \$100 (the guarantee) to the property of the **AIM** if the **AIM** is wound up:
- (a) while the 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 **AIM**, including the costs of winding up, incurred before the member stopped being a member exceed the company's assets.
- 3.2 The liability of each member is limited to the amount of the guarantee.

Charitable purposes and powers

4. Purposes

The **AIM's** object is to pursue the following charitable purpose(s) to promote harmonious and cohesive society as embedded in Vision, Mission and Objectives:

4.1 Our Vision

To build harmonious and cohesive society rooted in Dr Ambedkar's philosophy of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity through fostering moral integrity, compassion, knowledge and wisdom leading to an equitable and progressive multicultural society in Australia and supporting the upliftment of oppressed castes in India.

4.2 Our Mission

To advocate Dr B R Ambedkar's philosophy to promote harmonious and cohesive society rooted in the principles of Liberty, Fraternity and Equality, our mission is to achieve an egalitarian society where the values of power, courage, confidence, and pride guide our moral integrity, brotherhood, and the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom.

4.3 Our Key Objectives

- (a) **Caste Equality** - Working towards the eradication of the caste system and the upliftment of oppressed castes, particularly Dalits (then referred to as untouchables).
- (b) **Human Dignity** - Aim to restore the dignity and self-respect of marginalized communities through social reforms and educational initiatives.

- (c) **Social Justice** - Uphold social justice for all communities, regardless of caste, religion, or gender. Advocate for social reforms that would create a more equitable and just society.
- (d) **Egalitarianism** - A society where all people are treated equally, without any form of discrimination including caste, creed, gender, age or social status.
- (e) **Fraternity** - Building a society grounded in love, compassion, mutual respect, and a sense of universal brotherhood.
- (f) **Rationalism and Atheism** - Promote rational thinking, atheism, and secularism. Work actively towards criticising religious superstitions, rituals, and practices that perpetuate social inequality and hinder progress.
- (g) **Women's Empowerment** - Emphasize on the importance of women's education and their equal participation in social and political spheres.
- (h) **Cultural Heritage** - We uphold the cultural and historical heritage, its values, and its governance. In a broader cultural context, represent the moral and ethical values upheld by Buddhism and to preserve culture and heritage artefacts to preserve its long-standing tradition of moral and ethical governance.
- (i) **Eightfold Path** - Represent the practices in the Noble Eightfold Path: right view, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration.

5. Governance and Operations

5.1 The **AIM's** governance and management structure shall follow the framework outlined in the ***Organisational Structure Document***, which details the roles, responsibilities and reporting lines of all key positions within the **AIM**.

- (a) the Board of Directors (the Board) shall review and update the organisational structure as required.

5.2 The operations of the **AIM** shall be conducted in accordance with the ***Operational Guidelines***, as adopted and amended from time to time by the Board.

- (a) the Board has the authority to establish, amend and oversee the implementation of the ***Operational Guidelines***.

6. Powers

Subject to clause 5, the **AIM** 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 4.

7. Not-for-profit

- 7.1 The **AIM** must not distribute any income or assets directly or indirectly to its members, except as provided in clauses 7.2 and 70.
- 7.2 Clause 7.1 does not stop the **AIM** 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 **AIM**; or
- (b) making a payment to a member in carrying out the **AIM**'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 **AIM** would no longer be a charity.

Members

9. Membership and register of members

- 9.1 The members of the **AIM** are those:
 - (a) included as such on the application for incorporation of the company with their consent, and
 - (b) any other person that the directors allow to be a member, in accordance with this constitution,and have not since ceased to be a member.
- 9.2 The **AIM** 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
 - 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 person who stopped being a member in the last 7 years:
 - i. name
 - 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 **AIM** 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 member

10.1 A person who supports the purposes of the **AIM** is eligible to apply to be a member of the **AIM** under clause 11 and must give declaration for:

- (a) similar objectives and cultural linkage; and
- (b) endorse the vision, mission, values and objects of the **AIM**.

10.2 In this clause, 'person' means an individual or incorporated body.

11. Classes of membership

11.1 The **AIM** will comprise **two classes** of memberships, **General Member** as defined in clause 11.2 and Associate Member as defined in clause 11.3.

11.2 **General Member** of the **AIM** include:

- (a) any person who is eligible for the new membership in accordance with clause 10 and 12; and
- (b) any person as determined below or by special resolution at a general meeting as:
 - i. **Life Member:** individuals who have been granted lifetime membership due to their long-standing service or substantial contributions to AIM.

11.3 **Associate Member** of the AIM include:

- (a) any person who is under the age of 18 years and is eligible for the new membership in accordance with clause 10 and 12; and
- (b) as declared or determined as temporary resident of Australia; and
- (c) any person as determined below or by special resolution at a general meeting as:
 - i. **Student Member:** A discounted membership can be offered to students (single or family - partners married or de-facto plus children under 18 years of age).
 - ii. **Honorary Member:** Honorary membership is an exclusive privilege reserved for illustrious members of the wider community, irrespective of their cultural linkage, who provide or have provided meritorious or valuable services for the benefit of the **AIM**.
- (d) any person determined as **Associate Member** continue to enjoy all benefits and privileges of the **AIM** Membership until the end of the valid subscription period, **except for voting rights**; and
- (e) play no part in the **AIM's** political and decision-making processes.

12. How to apply to become a member

12.1 A person (as defined in clause 10.2) may apply to become a General Member of the **AIM** by submitting a written application form to the secretary stating that they:

- (a) want to become a member;
- (b) support the purpose(s) of the **AIM**; and

- (c) agree to comply with the **AIM**'s constitution, including paying the guarantee under clause 3 if required; and
- (d) be able to give declaration in writing and in the form determined by the **AIM**; and
- (e) be 18 years or older citizens of Australia or permanent residents.

12.2 The written application:

- (a) must be signed by the applicant; and
- (b) co-signed by the existing member supporting the application; and
- (c) may be accompanied by the joining fee.

Notes

- 1 The joining fee is the fee (if any) determined by the AIM (as defined in clause 15.2).
- 2 A requirement for a signature of a person may be met by electronic signature.

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; and
- (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 12.2(a), 12.2(b) and/ or 12.2(c). In that case, by applying to be a member, the applicant agrees to those three matters.

13.5 The directors may not approve an application if the application does not state the matters listed in clauses 10.1(a) and 10.1(b).

14. When a person becomes a member

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.

- (a) At each annual general meeting the directors must review the annual membership fee for the following financial year, and

- (b) Determine the date for payment of the annual subscription.
- 15.2 Unless the directors decide otherwise, the joining fee shall be \$0 and the annual membership fee for General Members shall be \$75 and the annual membership fee for Associate Members shall be \$50.
 - (a) The directors may decide that a lower annual subscription is payable by Associate Members.
- 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 **AIM** and the associated rights cannot be transferred or sold.

17. When a person stops being a member

- 17.1 A person (as defined in clause 10.2) immediately stops being a member if they:
 - (a) Die;
 - (b) fails 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;
 - (c) are wound up or otherwise dissolved or deregistered (for an incorporated member);
 - (d) resign, by writing to the secretary;
 - (e) are expelled under clause 19; or
 - (f) have not responded within three months to a written request from the secretary that they confirm in writing that they want 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 **AIM**.
- 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 **AIM** has its registered office.
- 18.6 A mediator chosen by the directors under clause 18.5(b)(i):
- (a) may be a member or former member of the **AIM**;
 - (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 from the **AIM** if the directors consider that:
- (a) the member has breached this constitution; or
 - (b) the member's behaviour is causing, has caused, or is likely to cause harm to the **AIM**.
- 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 meetings

- 20.1 The directors may call a **general meeting**, including an annual **general meeting**.
- 20.2 If members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast at a **general meeting** make a written request to the **AIM** 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 **AIM**.

- 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 **AIM's** member register, which the **AIM** 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 **AIM**.
- 20.9 The **AIM** must pay the members who request the **general meeting** any reasonable expenses they incur because the directors did not call and hold the meeting.

21. Using technology to hold meetings

- 21.1 The **AIM** 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 **AIM**; and
 - (b) The time of the meeting is taken to be the time at the registered office of the **AIM**.
- 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 **AIM**;
 - ii. the proxy form must be delivered to the **AIM** 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 **AIM** 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 10% 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 **AIM** is entitled to attend and address a general meeting.
- 24.3 The **AIM** must give the auditor (if any) any communications relating to the **general meeting** that a member of the **AIM** is entitled to receive.

25. Representatives of members

- 25.1 An incorporated member may appoint as a representative:
- (a) one individual to represent the member at meetings and to sign resolutions under clause 30; and
 - (b) the same individual or another individual for the purpose of being appointed or elected as a director.
- 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 member; and
 - (d) be given to the **AIM** or, for representation at a meeting, be given to the **chairperson** before the meeting starts.
- 25.3 A representative has all the rights of a member relevant to the purposes of the appointment as a representative.
- 25.4 The appointment may be standing.

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 or member 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 5% of the votes that may be cast on a resolution may give:

- (a) written notice to the **AIM** 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 **AIM** that the **AIM** 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 **AIM**.

29.6 If the **AIM** 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. AIM must give notice of proposed resolution or distribute statement

30.1 If the **AIM** has been given a notice or request under clause 29 **Error! Reference source not found.**:

- (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 **AIM'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 **AIM** 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 **AIM** will pay these expenses.

- 30.2 The **AIM** 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 1 000 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 **AIM** 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 **AIM** 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 31.6.
- 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 **AIM** 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

Each member has one 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;
- (c) **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
- (b) 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 member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote at a **general meeting** on their behalf.

36.2 A proxy does not need to be a member.

36.3 A proxy appointed to attend and vote for a member has the same rights as the 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 member appointing the proxy and must contain:
- (a) the member's name and address;
 - (b) the **AIM**'s name;
 - (c) the proxy's name or the name of the office held by the proxy; and
 - (d) 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 **AIM** at the address stated in the notice under clause 22.5(e) or at the **AIM**'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 member at a meeting while the member is at the meeting.
- 36.8 Unless the **AIM** receives written notice before the start or resumption of a **general meeting** at which a proxy votes, a vote cast by the proxy is valid even if, before the proxy votes, the appointing member:
- (a) Dies;
 - (b) is mentally incapacitated;
 - (c) revokes the proxy's appointment; or
 - (d) revokes the authority of a representative or agent who appointed the proxy.
- 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 of directors

- 38.1 The **AIM** must have at least three and no more than nine directors.

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 **AIM**.
- 39.2 The directors must be elected through an election process.
- (a) All elections shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the ***Election Commission Guidelines***.
 - (b) The ***Election Commission Guidelines*** shall outline the nomination, voting, and election processes, and may be amended by the Board from time to time, subject to approval at the next Annual General Meeting (**AGM**).
- 39.3 The members may elect a director by a resolution passed in a **general meeting**.
- 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 A person is eligible for election as a director of the **AIM** if they:
- (a) are a member of the **AIM**, or a representative of a member of the **AIM** (appointed under clause 25);
 - (b) are 18 years of age or older;
 - (c) are nominated by two members or representatives of members entitled to vote (unless the person was previously elected as a director at a **general meeting** and has been a director since that meeting);
 - (d) give the **AIM** their signed consent to act as a director of the **AIM**; and
 - (e) are not ineligible to be a director under the **Corporations Act** or the **ACNC Act**.
- 39.6 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) is a member of the **AIM**, or a representative of a member of the **AIM** (appointed under clause 25);
 - (b) is 18 years of age or older;
 - (c) gives the **AIM** their signed consent to act as a director of the **AIM**; and
 - (d) is not ineligible to be a director under the **Corporations Act** or the **ACNC Act**.
- 39.7 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

The directors must elect a director as the **AIM's chairperson**.

41. Term of office

41.1 Other than a director appointed under clause 39.6, 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 **AIM**;
- (b) die;
- (c) are removed as a director by a resolution of the members;
- (d) stop being a member of the **AIM**;
- (e) are a representative of a member, and that member stops being a member;
- (f) are a representative of a member, and the member notifies the **AIM** 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 **AIM** 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 **AIM** to carry out the purpose(s) set out in clause 4.

43.2 The directors may use all the powers of the **AIM** 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 **AIM** 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**.

43.5 The directors have the power to make by-laws for the proper advancement, management, and administration of the organisation and its objects. The directors shall have the power from time to time to make such by-laws not inconsistent with this Constitution.

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 **AIM** (such as a chief executive officer) or any other person, as they consider appropriate.

44.2 The **AIM** must keep appropriate records of any delegations.

45. Payments to directors

45.1 The **AIM** must not pay directors' fees.

45.2 The **AIM** may:

- (a) pay a director for work they do for the **AIM**, 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 **AIM**.

45.3 Any payment made under clause 45.2 must be approved by the directors.

46. Execution of documents

46.1 The **AIM** may execute a document without using a common seal if the document is signed by:

- (a) two directors of the **AIM**;
- (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.

47. Validity

47.1 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

48. Duties of directors

48.1 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 **AIM**;

- (b) to act in good faith in the best interests of the **AIM** and to further the charitable purpose(s) of the **AIM** set out in clause 4;
- (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 49;
- (f) to ensure that the financial affairs of the **AIM** are managed responsibly; and
- (g) not to allow the **AIM** to operate while it is insolvent.

49. Conflicts of interest

- 49.1 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 clause 55):
- (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.
- 49.2 The disclosure of a conflict of interest by a director must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 49.3 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 clause 56.5) must not:
- (a) be present at the meeting while the matter is being discussed; or
 - (b) vote on the matter,
- except as provided under clause 49.4.
- 49.4 A director may still be present and vote if:
- (a) their interest arises because they are a member of the **AIM**, and the other members have the same interest;
 - (b) their interest relates to an insurance contract that insures, or would insure, the director against liabilities that the director incurs as a director of the **AIM** (see clause 67);
 - (c) their interest relates to a payment by the **AIM** 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 **AIM**, and

- ii. says that those directors are satisfied that the interest should not stop the director from voting or being present.

Directors' meetings

50. When the directors meet

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

51. Calling directors' meetings

- 51.1 A director may call a directors' meeting by giving reasonable notice to all of the other directors.
- 51.2 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.

52. Chairperson for directors' meetings

- 52.1 The **chairperson** is entitled to chair directors' meetings.
- 52.2 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.

53. Quorum at directors' meetings

- 53.1 Unless the directors determine otherwise, the quorum for a directors' meeting is a majority (more than 50%) of directors.
- 53.2 A quorum must be present for the whole directors' meeting.

54. Using technology to hold directors' meetings

- 54.1 The directors may hold their meetings by using any **virtual meeting platform** that is agreed to by all of the directors.
- 54.2 The directors' agreement may be a standing (ongoing) one.
- 54.3 A director may only withdraw their consent within a reasonable period before the meeting.

55. Passing directors' resolutions

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

56. Resolutions of directors without a meeting

- 56.1 The directors may pass a resolution without a directors' meeting being held.
- 56.2 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 56.3 or clause 56.4.
- 56.3 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.
- 56.4 The **AIM** 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.
- 56.5 The resolution is passed when the last director signs or otherwise agrees to the resolution in the manner set out in clause 56.3 or clause 56.4.

57. Making bylaws

- 57.1 Bylaws can be proposed by any Director at a Directors' meeting. The proposal must be provided to each Director at least seven (7) days prior to the Directors' meeting.
 - (a) A bylaw must be passed by a majority of the votes cast by directors present and entitled to vote on the bylaw; and
 - (b) An approved bylaw shall take effect immediately and will be binding upon all existing Members of the organisation; and
 - (c) A bylaw may be amended or terminated by a majority of the votes cast by directors present and entitled to vote on the bylaw.

Secretary

58. Appointment and role of secretary

- 58.1 The **AIM** 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 **AIM** their signed consent to act as secretary of the **AIM**) 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 **AIM'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 **AIM** 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 **AIM** 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 **AIM**'s records:
 - (a) the **AIM** 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 **AIM**, 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 **AIM** 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 **AIM** must also keep written records that correctly record its operations.
- 60.3 The **AIM** must retain its records for at least 7 years.
- 60.4 The directors must take reasonable steps to ensure that the **AIM**'s records are kept safe.

Notice

61. What is notice

- 61.1 Anything written to or from the **AIM** 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 AIM

Written notice or any communication under this constitution may be given to the **AIM**, the directors or the secretary by:

- (a) delivering it to the **AIM**'s registered office;
- (b) posting it to the **AIM**'s registered office or to another address chosen by the **AIM** for notice to be provided;
- (c) sending it to an email address or other electronic address notified by the **AIM** to the members as the **AIM**'s email address or other electronic address; or
- (d) sending it to the fax number notified by the **AIM** to the members as the **AIM**'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 AIM must take reasonable steps to send documents in a manner that complies with the election.
- 63.3 If the AIM does not have an address for the member, the AIM 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. AIM's financial year

The AIM'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 **AIM** indemnifies each officer of the **AIM** out of the assets of the **AIM**, 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 **AIM**.
- 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 **AIM**; and
 - (b) is enforceable without that person having first to incur any expense or make any payment.

67. Insurance

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

68. Directors' access to documents

- 68.1 A director has a right of access to the financial records of the **AIM** 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 **AIM** may be wound up voluntarily by **special resolution**.

70. Surplus assets not to be distributed to members

If the **AIM** is wound up, any **surplus assets** must not be distributed to a member or a former member of the **AIM**, 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 **AIM** 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 **AIM**.

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 **AIM** may apply to the Supreme Court to make this decision.

72. Deductible Gift Recipient

If the **AIM** is wound up or its endorsement as a deductible gift recipient is revoked (whichever occurs first), any surplus of the following assets shall be transferred to another organisation with similar objects, which is charitable at law, to which income tax deductible gifts can be made:

- (a) gifts of money or property for the principal purpose of the organisation;
- (b) contributions made in relation to an eligible fundraising event held for the principal purpose of the organisation; and
- (c) money received by the organisation because of such gifts and contributions.

Definitions and interpretation

73. Definitions

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 **AIM's** registered office is located.

AIM means the **AIM** referred to in clause 1.

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

chairperson means a person elected by the directors to be the **AIM's** chairperson under clause 10.

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**.

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 **AIM** that remain after paying all debts and other liabilities of the **AIM**, 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.

74. Reading this constitution with the Corporations Act

- 74.1 The replaceable rules set out in the **Corporations Act** do not apply to the **AIM**.
- 74.2 While the **AIM** 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**.
- 74.3 If the **AIM** 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.
- 74.4 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.

75. Interpretation

In this constitution:

- (a) the words ‘including’, ‘for example’, or similar expressions mean that there may be more inclusions or examples than those mentioned after that expression, 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).