



RULES

OF

THE VIETNAMESE

CATHOLIC

FAMILY MUTUAL

ASSISTANCE

NETWORK

INCORPORATED

[ViCaFaMAN]

Approved by members at the extraordinary general meeting at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Springvale on 22 June 2019.

PART I PRELIMINARY

1 Name

The name of the incorporated association is The "**Vietnamese Catholic Family Mutual Assistance Network Incorporated**" (ViCaFaMAN).

2 Aims and Purposes

2.1 Aims:

1. ViCaFaMAN is an association consisting of Vietnamese individual and family, whether Catholic or non-Catholic, having same purposes based on the Catholic values, its main aim is to encourage the members to serve the community.
2. ViCaFaMAN is a non-political and not-for-profit organisation. ViCaFaMAN is a social organisation based on Christian faith with the aim to assist its members to achieve a peaceful and happy life.
3. ViCaFaMAN is operating within the state of Victoria

2.2. Purposes:

1. To work closely with all levels of the Catholic Church from local parish to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
2. To provide information or to organise workshops/ seminars focusing on Holy Bible, Marriage, Fostering Children, to enhance faith, family and social life for members.
3. To encourage members to participate and to support Catholic priests to organise retreats or spiritual exercises so as to maintain and enhance spiritual life for members.
4. To encourage young people to participate in all activities and study the Bible in order to serve the Catholic Church and others effectively.
5. To support and develop cultural programs with the focus on serving the Community, especially God's people.
6. To support members and to visit the deceased members' families.
7. To visit the sick and the elderly members at home, hospital or Nursing Homes.
8. To provide information on social welfare, immigration and other human development programs in order to enrich a peaceful and harmony life of members in the Australian Multicultural Society.

3 Financial year

The financial year of the Association is each period of 12 months starting from 1 July and ending on *30 June*.

4 Definitions

absolute majority, of the Committee, means a majority of the committee members currently holding office and entitled to vote at the time (as distinct from a majority of committee members present at a committee meeting);

area representatives means the people who are representing the association in each area

bereavement fund means a mutual fund of the association to support the deceased member's family;

Chairperson, of a general meeting or committee meeting, means the person chairing the meeting as required under rule 46;

committee meeting means a meeting of the Committee held in accordance with these Rules;

committee member means a member of the Committee elected or appointed under Division 3 of Part 5;

disciplinary appeal meeting means a meeting of the members of the Association convened under rule 23(3);

disciplinary meeting means a meeting of the Committee convened for the purposes of rule 22;

disciplinary subcommittee means the subcommittee appointed under rule 20;

Executive Committee means the Committee having management of the business of the Association;

Election Organising Committee means the Committee who are responsible to conduct the election for a new Executive Committee;

financial year means the 12 month period specified in rule 3;

general meeting means a general meeting of the members of the Association convened in accordance with Part 4 and includes an annual general meeting, a special general meeting and a disciplinary appeal meeting;

member means a member of the Association.

member entitled to vote means a member who under rule 13(2) is entitled to vote at a general meeting;

special resolution means a resolution that requires not less than three-quarters of the members voting at a general meeting, whether in person or by proxy, to vote in favour of the resolution;

the Act means the **Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012** and includes any regulations made under that Act;

the Registrar means the Registrar of Incorporated Associations.

PART II POWERS OF ASSOCIATION

5 Powers of Association

- (1) Subject to the Act, the Association has power to do all things incidental or conducive to achieve its purposes.
- (2) Without limiting sub rule (1), the Association may—
 1. acquire, hold and dispose of real or personal property;
 2. open and operate accounts with financial institutions;
 3. invest its money in any security in which trust monies may lawfully be invested;
 4. raise and borrow money on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit;

5. secure the repayment of money raised or borrowed, or the payment of a debt or liability;
 6. appoint agents to transact business on its behalf;
 7. enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.
- (3) The Association may only exercise its powers and use its income and assets (including any surplus) for its purposes.

6 Not for profit organisation

- (1) The Association must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.
- (2) Sub rule (1) does not prevent the Association from paying a member—
 - (a) reimbursement for expenses properly incurred by the member; or
 - (b) for goods or services provided by the member—if this is done in good faith on terms no more favourable than if the member was not a member.

Note

Section 33 of the Act provides that an incorporated association must not secure pecuniary profit for its members.

Section 4 of the Act sets out in more detail the circumstances under which an incorporated association is not taken to secure pecuniary profit for its members.

PART III MEMBERS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND GRIEVANCES

Division 1—Membership

7 Minimum number of members

The Association must have at least 5 members.

8 Who is eligible to be a member?

Any person who is Vietnamese-Australian, having permanent resident status, age between 18 to 70 years old (including spouse of applicant); residing in the State of Victoria; and agrees to comply with the Rules of the Association is eligible for membership.

9 Application for membership

- (1) To apply to become a member of the Association, a person must come to the association and submit a written application to a committee member stating that the person—
 - (a) wishes to become a member of the Association; and
 - (b) agrees to comply with these Rules.
- (2) The application—
 - (a) must be signed by the applicant; and
 - (b) must be accompanied by the joining fee and annual subscription fee.

10 Consideration of application

- (1) As soon as practicable after an application for membership is received, the Executive Committee must decide whether to accept or reject the application.
- (2) The Executive Committee must notify the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as practicable after the decision is made.
- (3) If the Executive Committee rejects the application, it must return any money accompanying the application to the applicant.
- (4) No reason need be given for the rejection of an application.

11 New membership

- (1) If an application for membership is approved by the Executive Committee—
 - (a) the resolution to accept the membership must be recorded in the minutes of the committee meeting; and
 - (b) the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the name and address of the new member, and the date of becoming a member, in the register of members.
- (2) A person becomes a member of the Association and, subject to rule 13(2), is entitled to exercise his or her rights of membership from the date, whichever is the later, on which—
 - (a) the Executive Committee approves the person's membership; and
 - (b) the person pays the joining fee.

12 Annual subscription and fee on joining

- (1) At each annual general meeting, the Association must determine—
 - (a) the amount of the annual subscription (if any) for the following financial year; and
 - (b) the date for payment of the annual subscription.
- (2) The Association may determine that any new member who joins after the start of a financial year must, for that financial year, pay a fee equal to—
 - (a) the full annual subscription; or
 - (b) a pro rata annual subscription based on the remaining part of the financial year; or
 - (c) a fixed amount determined from time to time by the Association.
- (3) The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual subscription by the due date are suspended until the subscription is paid.

13 General rights of members

- (1) a member of the Association who is entitled to vote has the right—
 - (a) to receive notice of general meetings and of proposed special resolutions in the manner and time prescribed by these Rules; and
 - (b) to submit items of business for consideration at a general meeting; and
 - (c) to attend and be heard at general meetings; and
 - (d) to vote at a general meeting; and

(e) to have access to the minutes of general meetings and other documents of the Association as provided under rule 72; and

(f) to inspect the register of members.

(2) A member is entitled to vote if—

(a) more than 10 business days have passed since he or she became a member of the Association; and

(b) the member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason.

(3) Other rights

(a) Each year there will be Special Mass offering to pray for the souls of deceased members as well as living members.

(b) Eligible to utilise all the services provided by the Association.

14 Rights not transferable

The rights of a member are not transferable and end when membership ceases.

15 Ceasing membership

(1) The membership of a person ceases on resignation, expulsion or death.

(2) If a person ceases to be a member of the Association, the Secretary must, as soon as practicable, enter the date the person ceased to be a member in the register of members.

16 Resigning as a member

(1) A member may resign by notice in writing given to the Association.

Note: Rule 71(3) sets out how notice may be given to the association. It includes by post or by handing the notice to a member of the committee.

(2) A member is taken to have resigned if—

(a) the member's annual subscription is more than 12 months in arrears; or

(b) where no annual subscription is payable—

(i) the Secretary has made a written request to the member to confirm that he or she wishes to remain a member; and

(ii) the member has not, within 3 months after receiving that request, confirmed in writing that he or she wishes to remain a member.

17 Register of members

(1) The Secretary must keep and maintain a register of members that includes—

(a) for each current member—

(i) the member's name;

(ii) the address for notice last given by the member;

(iii) the date of becoming a member; and

(iv) any other information determined by the Executive Committee; and

(b) for each former member, the date of ceasing to be a member.

- (2) Any member may, at a reasonable time and free of charge, inspect the register of members.

Note: Under section 59 of the Act, access to the personal information of a person recorded in the register of members may be restricted in certain circumstances.

Section 58 of the Act provides that it is an offence to make improper use of information about a person obtained from the Register of Members.

18 Membership for Bereavement Fund

- (1) Any member of Association may be eligible to apply to become member of the "Bereavement Fund".
- (2) A member of Bereavement Fund will have to agree with all the rules set out by the Bereavement Fund of the Association.
- (3) Rules set out by the Bereavement Fund will have to comply with the rules set out by the Association.

Division 2—Disciplinary action

19 Grounds for taking disciplinary action

The Association may take disciplinary action against a member in accordance if it is determined that the member—

- (a) has failed to comply with these Rules; or
- (b) refuses to support the purposes of the Association; or
- (c) has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the Association.

20 Disciplinary subcommittee

- (1) If the Executive Committee is satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for taking disciplinary action against a member, the Executive Committee must appoint a disciplinary subcommittee to hear the matter and determine what action, if any, to take against the member.
- (2) The members of the disciplinary subcommittee
 - (a) may be Executive Committee members, members of the Association or anyone else; but
 - (b) must not be biased against, or in favour of, the member concerned.

21 Notice to member

- (1) Before disciplinary action is taken against a member, the Secretary must give written notice to the member—
 - (a) stating that the Association proposes to take disciplinary action against the member; and
 - (b) stating the grounds for the proposed disciplinary action; and

- (c) specifying the date, place and time of the meeting at which the disciplinary subcommittee intends to consider the disciplinary action (the ***disciplinary meeting***); and
 - (d) advising the member that he or she may do one or both of the following—
 - (i) attend the disciplinary meeting and address the disciplinary subcommittee at that meeting;
 - (ii) give a written statement to the disciplinary subcommittee at any time before the disciplinary meeting; and
 - (e) setting out the member's appeal rights under rule 23.
- (2) The notice must be given no earlier than 28 days, and no later than 14 days, before the disciplinary meeting is held.

22 Decision of subcommittee

- (1) At the disciplinary meeting, the disciplinary subcommittee must—
- (a) give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) consider any written statement submitted by the member.
- (2) After complying with sub rule (1), the disciplinary subcommittee may—
- (a) take no further action against the member; or
 - (b) subject to sub rule (3)—
 - (i) reprimand the member; or
 - (ii) suspend the membership rights of the member for a specified period; or
 - (iii) expel the member from the Association.
- (3) The disciplinary subcommittee may not fine the member.
- (4) The suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the disciplinary subcommittee under this rule takes effect immediately after the vote is passed.

23 Appeal rights

- (1) A person whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the Association under rule 22 may give notice to the effect that he or she wishes to appeal against the suspension or expulsion.
- (2) The notice must be in writing and given—
- (a) to the disciplinary subcommittee immediately after the vote to suspend or expel the person is taken; or
 - (b) to the Secretary not later than 48 hours after the vote.
- (3) If a person has given notice under sub rule (2), a disciplinary appeal meeting must be convened by the Executive Committee as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 21 days, after the notice is received.
- (4) Notice of the disciplinary appeal meeting must be given to each member of the Association who is entitled to vote as soon as practicable and must—
- (a) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and

(b) state—

(i) the name of the person against whom the disciplinary action has been taken; and

(ii) the grounds for taking that action; and

(iii) that at the disciplinary appeal meeting the members present must vote on whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.

24 Conduct of disciplinary appeal meeting

(1) At a disciplinary appeal meeting—

(a) no business other than the question of the appeal may be conducted; and

(b) the Executive Committee must state the grounds for suspending or expelling the member and the reasons for taking that action; and

(c) the person whose membership has been suspended or who has been expelled must be given an opportunity to be heard.

(2) After complying with sub rule (1), the members present and entitled to vote at the meeting must vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the decision to suspend or expel the person should be upheld or revoked.

(3) A member may not vote by proxy at the meeting.

(4) The decision is upheld if not less than three quarters of the members voting at the meeting vote in favour of the decision.

Division 3—Grievance procedure

25 Application

(1) The grievance procedure set out in this Division applies to disputes under these Rules between—

(a) a member and another member;

(b) a member and the Executive Committee;

(c) a member and the Association.

(2) A member must not initiate a grievance procedure in relation to a matter that is the subject of a disciplinary procedure until the disciplinary procedure has been completed.

26 Parties must attempt to resolve the dispute

The parties to a dispute must attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves within 14 days of the dispute coming to the attention of each party.

27 Appointment of mediator

(1) If the parties to a dispute are unable to resolve the dispute between them within the time required by rule 26, the parties must within 10 days—

(a) notify the Executive Committee of the dispute; and

(b) agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and

- (c) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (2) The mediator must be—
 - (a) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - (b) in the absence of agreement—
 - (i) if the dispute is between a member and another member—a person appointed by the Executive Committee; or
 - (ii) if the dispute is between a member and the Executive Committee or the Association—a person appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.
- (3) A mediator appointed by the Executive Committee may be a member or former member of the Association but in any case must not be a person who—
 - (a) has a personal interest in the dispute; or
 - (b) is biased in favour of or against any party.

28 Mediation process

- (1) The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, must—
 - (a) give each party every opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
 - (c) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.
- (2) The mediator must not determine the dispute.

29 Failure to resolve dispute by mediation

If the mediation process does not resolve the dispute, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

PART IV GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

30 Annual general meetings

- (1) The Executive Committee must convene an annual general meeting of the Association to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (2) The Association may hold its first annual general meeting at any time within 18 months after its incorporation.
- (3) The Executive Committee may determine the date, time and place of the annual general meeting.
- (4) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting is as follows—
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;
 - (b) to receive and consider—

- (i) the annual report of the Executive Committee on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year; and
 - (ii) the financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Executive Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
 - (c) to elect the members of the Executive Committee (every three years);
 - (d) to confirm or vary the amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee.
- (5) The annual general meeting may also conduct any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

31 Special general meetings

- (1) Any general meeting of the Association, other than an annual general meeting or a disciplinary appeal meeting, is a special general meeting.
- (2) The Executive Committee may convene a special general meeting whenever it thinks fit.
- (3) No business other than that set out in the notice under rule 33 may be conducted at the meeting.

Note: General business may be considered at the meeting if it is included as an item for consideration in the notice under rule 33 and the majority of members at the meeting agree.

32 Special general meeting held at request of members

- (1) The Executive Committee must convene a special general meeting if a request to do so is made in accordance with sub rule (2) by at least 70% of the total number of members of Executive Committee; or at least 50% of the total number of members of Association.
- (2) A request for a special general meeting must—
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) state the business to be considered at the meeting and any resolutions to be proposed; and
 - (c) include the names and signatures of the members requesting the meeting; and
 - (d) be given to the Secretary.
- (3) If the Executive Committee does not convene a special general meeting within one month after the date on which the request is made, the members making the request (or any of them) may convene the special general meeting.
- (4) A special general meeting convened by members under sub rule (3)—
 - (a) must be held within 3 months after the date on which the original request was made; and
 - (b) may only consider the business stated in that request.
- (5) The Association must reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by the members convening a special general meeting under sub rule (3).

33 Notice of general meetings

- (1) The Secretary (or, in the case of a special general meeting convened under rule 32(3), the members convening the meeting) must give to each member of the Association—
 - (a) at least 21 days' notice of a general meeting if a special resolution is to be proposed at the meeting; or
 - (b) at least 14 days' notice of a general meeting in any other case.
- (2) The notice must—
 - (a) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
 - (b) indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting; and
 - (c) if a special resolution is to be proposed—
 - (i) state in full the proposed resolution; and
 - (ii) state the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution; and
 - (d) comply with rule 34(5).
- (3) This rule does not apply to a disciplinary appeal meeting.

Note: Rule 23(4) sets out the requirements for notice of a disciplinary appeal meeting.

34 Proxies

- (1) A member may appoint another member as his or her proxy to vote and speak on his or her behalf at a general meeting other than at a disciplinary appeal meeting.
- (2) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the member making the appointment.
- (3) The member appointing the proxy may give specific directions as to how the proxy is to vote on his or her behalf, otherwise the proxy may vote on behalf of the member in any matter as he or she sees fit.
- (4) If the Executive Committee has approved a form for the appointment of a proxy, the member may use any other form that clearly identifies the person appointed as the member's proxy and that has been signed by the member.
- (5) Notice of a general meeting given to a member under rule 33 must—
 - (a) state that the member may appoint another member as a proxy for the meeting; and
 - (b) include a copy of any form that the Executive Committee has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (6) A form appointing a proxy must be given to the Chairperson of the meeting before or at the commencement of the meeting.
- (7) A form appointing a proxy sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Association no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

35 Use of technology

- (1) A member not physically present at a general meeting may be permitted to participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that member and the members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a member participating in a general meeting as permitted under sub rule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

36 Quorum at general meetings

- (1) No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members is present.
- (2) The quorum for a general meeting is the presence (physically, by proxy or as allowed under rule 35) of 10% of the members entitled to vote.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting—
 - (a) in the case of a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members under rule 32—the meeting must be dissolved;

Note: If a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members is dissolved under this sub rule, the business that was to have been considered at the meeting is taken to have been dealt with. If members wish to have the business reconsidered at another special meeting, the members must make a new request under rule 32.

(b) in any other case—

- (i) the meeting must be adjourned to a date not more than 21 days after the adjournment; and
 - (ii) notice of the date, time and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given at the meeting and confirmed by written notice given to all members as soon as practicable after the meeting.
- (4) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time to which a general meeting has been adjourned under sub rule (3)(b), the members present at the meeting (if not fewer than 3) may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present.

37 Adjournment of general meeting

- (1) The Chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of a majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting to another time at the same place or at another place.
- (2) Without limiting sub rule (1), a meeting may be adjourned—
 - (a) if there is insufficient time to deal with the business at hand; or
 - (b) to give the members more time to consider an item of business.

Example: The members may wish to have more time to examine the financial statements submitted by the Executive Committee at an annual general meeting.

- (3) No business may be conducted on the resumption of an adjourned meeting other than the business that remained unfinished when the meeting was adjourned.

- (4) Notice of the adjournment of a meeting under this rule is not required unless the meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, in which case notice of the meeting must be given in accordance with rule 33.

38 Voting at general meeting

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting—
- (a) subject to sub rule (3), each member who is entitled to vote has one vote; and
 - (b) members may vote personally or by proxy; and
 - (c) except in the case of a special resolution, the question must be decided on a majority of votes.
- (2) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (3) If the question is whether or not to confirm the minutes of a previous meeting, only members who were present at that meeting may vote.
- (4) This rule does not apply to a vote at a disciplinary appeal meeting conducted under rule 24.

39 Special resolutions

A special resolution is passed if not less than three quarters of the members voting at a general meeting (whether in person or by proxy) vote in favour of the resolution.

Note

In addition to certain matters specified in the Act, a special resolution is required—

- (a) to remove a committee member from office;
- (b) to alter these Rules, excluding changing the name or any of the purposes of the Association.

40 Determining whether resolution carried

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Chairperson of a general meeting may, on the basis of a show of hands, declare that a resolution has been—
- (a) carried; or
 - (b) carried unanimously; or
 - (c) carried by a particular majority; or
 - (d) lost—and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting is conclusive proof of that fact.
- (2) If a poll (where votes are cast in writing) is demanded by not less than three quarters of the members voting at a general meeting on any question—
- (a) the poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the Chairperson of the meeting; and
 - (b) the Chairperson must declare the result of the resolution on the basis of the poll.

- (3) A poll demanded on the election of the Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately.
- (4) A poll demanded on any other question must be taken before the close of the meeting at a time determined by the Chairperson.

41 Minutes of general meeting

- (1) The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each general meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- (3) In addition, the minutes of each annual general meeting must include—
 - (a) the total number of members attending the meeting; and
 - (b) proxy forms given to the Chairperson of the meeting under rule 34(6); and
 - (c) the financial statements submitted to the members in accordance with rule 30(4)(b)(ii); and
 - (d) the certificate signed by two committee members certifying that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association; and
 - (e) any audited accounts and auditor's report or report of a review accompanying the financial statements that are required under the Act.

PART V COMMITTEES

Division 1: Executive Committee

42. Role and powers

- (1) The business of the Association must be managed by or under the direction of an Executive Committee.
- (2) The Executive Committee may exercise all the powers of the Association except those powers that these Rules or the Act require to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the Association.
- (3) The Executive Committee may—
 - (a) nominate a Catholic Priest as a Spiritual Director;
 - (b) establish representative for each region, committees, and subcommittees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate.

43. Delegation

- (1) The Executive Committee may delegate to a member of the Executive Committee, a subcommittee or staff, any of its powers and functions other than—
 - (a) this power of delegation; or
 - (b) a duty imposed on the Executive Committee by the Act or any other law.
- (2) The delegation must be in writing and may be subject to the conditions and limitations the Executive Committee considers appropriate.
- (3) The Executive Committee may, in writing, revoke a delegation wholly or in part.

Division 2—Composition of Executive Committee and duties of members

44 Composition of Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of—

- a President; and
- a Vice-President for External Affairs; and
- a Vice-President for Internal Affairs; and
- a Secretary and
- a Treasurer

45 General Duties

- (1) As soon as practicable after being elected or appointed to the Executive Committee, each committee member must become familiar with these Rules and the Act.
- (2) The Executive Committee is collectively responsible for ensuring that the Association complies with the Act and that individual members of the Executive Committee comply with these Rules.
- (3) Executive Committee members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence.
- (4) Executive Committee members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties—
 - (a) in good faith in the best interests of the Association; and
 - (b) for a proper purpose.
- (5) Executive Committee members and former committee members must not make improper use of—
 - (a) their position; or
 - (b) information acquired by virtue of holding their position—so as to gain an advantage for themselves or any other person or to cause detriment to the Association.
- (6) In addition to any duties imposed by these Rules, a committee member must perform any other duties imposed from time to time by resolution at a general meeting.

46 President and Vice-Presidents

- (1) Subject to sub rule (2), the President or, in the President's absence, one of the Vice-President is the Chairperson for any general meetings and for any committee meetings.
- (2) If the President and the Vice-Presidents are absent, or are unable to preside, the Chairperson of the meeting must be—
 - (a) in the case of a general meeting—a member elected by the other members present; or
 - (b) in the case of a committee meeting—a committee member elected by the other committee members present.

47 Secretary:

- (1) The Secretary must perform any duty or function required under the Act to be performed by the secretary of an incorporated association.
- (2) The Secretary must—
 - (a) maintain the register of members in accordance with rule 18; and
 - (b) keep custody of the common seal (if any) of the Association and, except for the financial records referred to in rule 67(3), all books, documents and securities of the Association in accordance with rules 69 and 72; and
 - (c) subject to the Act and these Rules, provide members with access to the register of members, the minutes of general meetings and other books and documents; and
 - (d) perform any other duty or function imposed on the Secretary by these Rules.
- (3) The Secretary must give to the Registrar notice of his or her appointment within 14 days after the appointment.
- (4) The Executive Committee may delegate the Secretary to perform spokesperson on behalf of the association; and to liaise with the relevant government bodies as well as other community organisations.

48. Treasurer

- (1) The Treasurer must—
 - (a) receive all moneys paid to or received by the Association and issue receipts for those moneys in the name of the Association; and
 - (b) ensure that all moneys received are paid into the account of the Association within 5 working days after receipt; and
 - (c) make any payments authorised by the Committee or by a general meeting of the Association from the Association's funds; and
 - (d) ensure cheques are signed by at least 2 committee members.
- (2) The Treasurer must—
 - (a) ensure that the financial records of the Association are kept in accordance with the Act; and
 - (b) coordinate the preparation of the financial statements of the Association and their certification by the Committee prior to their submission to the annual general meeting of the Association.
- (3) The Treasurer must ensure that at least one other committee member has access to the accounts and financial records of the Association.

Division 3—Election of Executive Committee members and tenure of office

49. Who is eligible to be an Executive Committee Member?

A member is eligible to be elected or appointed as a committee member if the member—

1. a Catholic
2. who is 21 years or over;
3. has been a member for at least three years;

4. has not been declared bankrupt;
5. has no criminal records; and
6. is entitled to vote at a general meeting.

50. Election procedures

- (1) At least 3 months before the expiry of the current Executive Committee an Election Organising Committee is to be established by the Executive Committee
- (2) The Election Organising Committee will conduct the election for a new Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting.
- (3) The Election Organising Committee will have three members: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.

51. Election of Executive Committee.

- (1) At the annual general meeting, election must be held in a form of selecting individual candidate(s) for a new Executive Committee consists of the following positions—
 - (a) President;
 - (b) Vice-President – Internal Affairs;
 - (c) Vice-President – External Affairs;
 - (d) Secretary General
 - (e) Treasurer.
- (2) If only one candidate is nominated, the Chairperson of the meeting can ask for a vote by hand.
- (3) If more than one candidate is nominated for one position, a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 52.
- (4) For any reasons, if a new Executive Committee cannot be elected, the current Executive Committee will be in charge of the Association for at least 12 months before a new Executive Committee is elected.

52. Ballot

- (1) The Election Organising Committee member must not be a member nominated for any of the position of the Executive Committee.
- (2) The election must be by secret ballot when there is more than one candidate for a particular position.
- (3) The Election Organising Committee must declare elected if there is only one candidate with majority support from the Annual General Meeting or, in the case of an election for more than one candidate, the candidate who received the most votes.
- (4) If the Election Organising Committee is unable to declare the result of an election because 2 or more candidates received the same number of votes, the returning officer must conduct a further election to decide which of those candidates is to be elected.

53. Term of office

Term of office is three years

54. Vacation of office

- (1) A committee member may resign from the Executive Committee by written notice addressed to the Executive Committee.
- (2) A person ceases to be a committee member if he or she—
 - (a) ceases to be a member of the Association; or
 - (b) fails to attend 3 consecutive committee meetings (other than special or urgent committee meetings) without leave of absence.

55. Filling casual vacancies

- (1) The Executive Committee may appoint an eligible member of the Association to fill a position on the Executive Committee that has become vacant under rule 54.
- (2) If the position of Secretary becomes vacant, the Executive Committee must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- (3) The Executive Committee may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

Division 4—Meetings of Executive Committee

56. Meetings of Executive Committee

- (1) The Executive Committee must meet at least 4 times in each year at the dates, times and places determined by the Executive Committee.
- (2) The date, time and place of the first committee meeting must be determined by the members of the Executive Committee as soon as practicable after the annual general meeting of the Association at which the members of the Executive Committee were elected.
- (3) Special committee meetings may be convened by the President or by any 4 members of the Executive Committee.

57. Notice of meetings

- (1) Notice of each committee meeting must be given to each committee member no later than 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- (2) Notice may be given of more than one committee meeting at the same time.
- (3) The notice must state the date, time and place of the meeting.
- (4) If a special committee meeting is convened, the notice must include the general nature of the business to be conducted.
- (5) The only business that may be conducted at the meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

58. Urgent meetings

- (1) In cases of urgency, a meeting can be held without notice being given in accordance with rule 57 provided that as much notice as practicable is given to each committee member by the quickest means practicable.
- (2) Any resolution made at the meeting must be passed by an absolute majority of the Executive Committee.
- (3) The only business that may be conducted at an urgent meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

59. Procedure and order of business

- (1) The procedure to be followed at a meeting of an Executive Committee must be determined from time to time by the Committee.
- (2) The order of business may be determined by the members present at the meeting.

60. Use of technology

- (1) A committee member who is not physically present at a committee meeting may participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that committee member and the committee members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a committee member participating in a committee meeting as permitted under sub rule (1) is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

61. Quorum

- (1) No business may be conducted at an Executive Committee meeting unless a quorum is present.
 - (2) The quorum for a committee meeting is the presence (in person or as allowed under rule 60) of a majority of the committee members holding office.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a committee meeting—
 - (a) in the case of a special meeting—the meeting lapses;
 - (b) in any other case—the meeting must be adjourned to a date no later than 14 days after the adjournment and notice of the time, date and place to which the meeting is adjourned must be given in accordance with rule 57.

62. Voting

- (1) On any question arising at a committee meeting, each committee member present at the meeting has one vote.
- (2) A motion is carried if a majority of committee members present at the meeting vote in favour of the motion.
- (3) Sub rule (2) does not apply to any motion or question which is required by these Rules to be passed by an absolute majority of the Executive Committee.
- (4) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (5) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

63 Conflict of interest

- (1) A committee member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a committee meeting must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the Executive Committee.
- (2) The member—
 - (a) must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; and

(b) must not vote on the matter.

Note: Under section 81(3) of the Act, if there are insufficient committee members to form a quorum because a member who has a material personal interest is disqualified from voting on a matter, a general meeting may be called to deal with the matter.

(3) This rule does not apply to a material personal interest—

(a) that exists only because the member belongs to a class of persons for whose benefit the Association is established; or

(b) that the member has in common with all, or a substantial proportion of, the members of the Association.

64 Minutes of meeting

(1) The Executive Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each committee meeting.

(2) The minutes must record the following—

(a) the names of the members in attendance at the meeting;

(b) the business considered at the meeting;

(c) any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote;

(d) any material personal interest disclosed under rule 63.

PART VI FINANCIAL MATTERS

65. Source of funds

The funds of the Association may be derived from joining fees, annual subscriptions, bereavement fund, donations, fund-raising activities, grants, interest and any other sources approved by the Executive Committee.

66. Management of funds

(1) The Association must open an account with a financial institution from which all expenditure of the Association is made and into which all of the Association's revenue is deposited.

(2) Subject to any restrictions imposed by a general meeting of the Association, the Executive Committee may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.

(3) The Executive Committee may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the Association (including by electronic funds transfer) up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the Executive Committee for each item on which the funds are expended.

(4) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by 2 committee members.

(5) All funds of the Association must be deposited into the financial account of the Association no later than 5 working days after receipt.

(6) With the approval of the Committee, the Treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid from or paid into the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction.

67. Financial records

- (1) The Association must keep financial records that—
 - (a) correctly record and explain its transactions, financial position and performance; and
 - (b) enable financial statements to be prepared as required by the Act.
- (2) The Association must retain the financial records for 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.
- (3) The Treasurer must keep in his or her custody, or under his or her control—
 - (a) the financial records for the current financial year; and
 - (b) any other financial records as authorised by the Executive Committee.

68. Financial statements

- (1) For each financial year, the Executive Committee must ensure that the requirements under the Act relating to the financial statements of the Association are met.
- (2) Without limiting sub rule (1), those requirements include—
 - (a) the preparation of the financial statements;
 - (b) if required, the review or auditing of the financial statements;
 - (c) the certification of the financial statements by the Executive Committee;
 - (d) the submission of the financial statements to the annual general meeting of the Association;
 - (e) the lodgement with the Registrar of the financial statements and accompanying reports, certificates, statements and fee.

PART VII GENERAL MATTERS

69. Common seal

- (1) The Association may have a common seal.
- (2) If the Association has a common seal—
 - (a) the name of the Association must appear in legible characters on the common seal;
 - (b) the common seal must be kept in the custody of the Secretary.

70. Registered address

The registered address of the Association is—

- 1- the address determined from time to time by resolution of the Executive Committee; or
- 2- if the Executive Committee has not determined an address to be the registered address—the postal address of the Secretary.

71. Notice requirements

- (1) Any notice required to be given to a member or an executive committee member under these Rules may be given—
 - (a) by handing the notice to the member personally; or
 - (b) by sending it by post to the member at the address recorded for the member on the register of members; or
 - (c) by email or facsimile transmission.
- (2) Sub rule (1) does not apply to notice given under rule 58.
- (3) Any notice required to be given to the Association or the Executive Committee may be given—
 - (a) by handing the notice to a member of the Executive Committee; or
 - (b) by sending the notice by post to the registered address; or
 - (c) by leaving the notice at the registered address; or
 - (d) if the Executive Committee determines that it is appropriate in the circumstances
 - (i) by email to the email address of the Association or the Secretary; or
 - (ii) by facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the Association.

72 Custody and inspection of books and records

- (1) Members may on request inspect free of charge—
 - (a) the register of members;
 - (b) the minutes of general meetings;
 - (c) subject to sub rule (2), the financial records, books, securities and any other relevant document of the Association, including minutes of Committee meetings.

Note: See note following rule 17 for details of access to the register of members.

- (2) The Executive Committee may refuse to permit a member to inspect records of the Association that relate to confidential, personal, employment, commercial or legal matters or where to do so may be prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- (3) The Executive Committee must on request make copies of these rules available to members and applicants for membership free of charge.
- (4) Subject to sub rule (2), a member may make a copy of any of the other records of the Association referred to in this rule and the Association may charge a reasonable fee for provision of a copy of such a record.
- (5) For purposes of this rule—**relevant documents** means the records and other documents, however compiled, recorded or stored, that relate to the incorporation and management of the Association and includes the following—
 - (a) its membership records;
 - (b) its financial statements;
 - (c) its financial records;

(d) records and documents relating to transactions, dealings, business or property of the Association.

73. Winding up and cancellation

- (1) The Association may be wound up voluntarily by special resolution.
- (2) A Winding-up Committee consists of 4 members (Chairman, Vice- Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) will be established to oversee the winding up process
- (3) In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the Association, the surplus assets of the Association must not be distributed to any members or former members of the Association.
- (4) Subject to the Act and any court order made under section 133 of the Act, the surplus assets must be given to a body that has similar purposes to the Association and which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.
- (5) The body to which the surplus assets are to be given must be decided by a special resolution.

74. Alteration of Rules

These Rules (other than Clause 1, 2 and 49) may only be altered by special resolution of a general meeting of the Association.

Note

An alteration of these Rules does not take effect unless or until it is approved by the Registrar.