

Rural Doctors Foundation.

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Constitution **Rural Doctors Foundation Ltd**

ACN 603 089 881

Supporting better health for
rural and remote communities



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1. Definitions and interpretation

1.1 Definitions

Unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

Board Chair means the presiding officer of the Board elected or appointed in accordance with Rule 17A.

Company means the Company whose members have adopted this Constitution.

Constitution means those rules for the operation of the Company set out in this Constitution.

Deputy Chair means the Deputy Chair of the Board elected or appointed in accordance with Rule 17A.

Director means a Director of the Company appointed in accordance with Rule 17.

Law means the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

Member means any person whose name appears in the Register as a Member of the Company.

Notice Address means the last address for a person as recorded in the records of the Company and may include facsimile numbers or electronic mail addresses.

Ordinary Resolution means a resolution passed by a simple majority of Members.

Prescribed Rate means the rate specified by the Company from time to time expressed as a rate per cent per annum or if no rate is specified, the Prescribed Rate is 8% per annum.

Register means the Register of Members of the Company required to be kept by section 169 of the Law.

Related Body Corporate of a body corporate is a body corporate which is related to that body corporate within the meaning of the Law;.

Rules means the provisions of this Constitution and Rule means any one of them.

Secretary means the Secretary of the Board elected or appointed in accordance with Rule 17A and any assistant or acting Secretary and any other person appointed to perform, whether alone or in addition to any other person or persons, the duties of Secretary of the Company.

Special Resolution has the meaning assigned to that expression by section 9 of the Law.

Subordinate Regulations means any code of conduct, rules, by-laws, regulations or standards issued from time to time by the Company under Rule 13 and Subordinate Regulation means any of them;.

Treasurer means the Treasurer of the Board elected or appointed in accordance with Rule 17A.

1.2 Interpretation

Unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires, references to:

- (a) **singular** words include the **plural** and vice versa
- (b) any **gender** include every gender
- (c) **persons** include a natural person, corporations, trusts, associations, partnerships, government authorities, and other legal entities, and where necessary, includes successors and assigns
- (d) **writing** includes printing, typing, facsimile and other means of representing or reproducing words, figures, drawings or symbols in a visible and tangible or electronic form, in English
- (e) **signature** and **signing** means due execution of a document by a person, corporation or other relevant entity and include signing by an agent or attorney or representative (if a body corporate)
- (f) **months** mean calendar months
- (g) **statutes** include statutes amending, consolidating or replacing the statutes referred to and all regulations, orders-in-council, rules, by-laws and ordinances made under those statutes
- (h) **sections** of statutes or terms defined in statutes refer to corresponding sections or defined terms in amended, consolidated or replacement statutes
- (i) an **agreement or document** means that agreement or document as amended, novated or supplemented
- (j) **a party** includes that party's executors, administrators, substitutes, successors and assigns
- (k) **sell or sold** include transfer, lease, assign, grant options and/or any other form of disposing of or creating an interest in the thing being considered and **buy or purchase** will be interpreted correspondingly
- (l) **headings** and the **table of contents** are for convenience only and will be disregarded in the interpretation of this Constitution

Where a person is entitled to **vote** or holds the **right to vote** on any matter by virtue of this Constitution, the person may vote by proxy or attorney or representative (if a body corporate).

If a word or phrase is given a **defined meaning**, another grammatical form of that word or phrase has a corresponding meaning.

Each paragraph or sub-paragraph in a list is to be **read independently** from the others in the list.

1.3 Actions authorised under the Law

Subject to Rule 3, where the Law authorises or permits a company to do anything if authorised by its Constitution, the Company is authorised or permitted to do that thing despite any other provision of this Constitution.

1.4 Corporations Act prevails

Where any provision in this Constitution is invalid or unenforceable or conflicts with any provision of the Law, it will be read and interpreted as being subject to the provisions of the Law and will be ineffective, but only to the extent of any invalidity, unenforceability or conflict.

1.5 No limit on exercise of powers

Subject to Rule 3, where the Company or the directors or any other person is given a power, right or discretion under this Constitution:

- (a) the power, right or discretion may be exercised absolutely without restriction unless the power, right or discretion is expressly limited; and
- (b) any exercise of that power, right or discretion on any occasion will not restrict the further exercise of the power, right or discretion on any other occasion or at any time.

2. Effect of the Constitution

This Constitution will have effect as a contract:

- (a) between the Company and each Member;
 - (b) between the Company and each Director and Secretary; and
 - (c) between a Member and each other Member,
- under which each Member agrees to observe and perform the Rules so far as they apply to that Member.

3. Objects

The objects of the Company are to solicit and/or receive monies through individual donations and legacies and from corporate donations, corporate sponsorships as well as from other fundraising endeavours for the purposes of applying the same towards the objects of the Company for the purpose of:

- (a) promoting the prevention or control of diseases in, and to attain the highest standard of care for, people in rural and remote communities, where "diseases" shall mean and include any mental or physical ailment, disorder, defect or morbid condition, whether of sudden onset or gradual development and whether of genetic or other origin, including (but without limited the generality of the forgoing) asthma, cancer, AIDS, arthritis, heart conditions, bone conditions, paraplegia, kidney conditions, dementia, autism, cerebral palsy, mental illness and multiple sclerosis;
- (b) benefitting such rural communities by the relief of sickness caused by such diseases;
- (c) relieving the suffering from diseases of such people by improving access to the treatment of such diseases;
- (d) supporting medical students and medical practitioners to acquire the skills and experience necessary for rural medical practice as the carers of such people, to manage and treat such diseases;

- (e) promoting the benefits of rural practice for medical students and medical practitioners by providing general education to them as such potential carers;
- (f) providing assistance and relief to medical practitioners and other health care professionals afflicted by hardship in rural communities to assist them as carers to manage and treat diseases of people in rural and remote communities;
- (g) providing support, either financial or in kind to rural doctors, medical students and rural and remote communities to ease the suffering and distress associated with diseases and with the management of control of such diseases including (but without limiting the generality of the foregoing) the acquisition of equipment and/or aids and/or other resources not otherwise accessible by them;
- (h) providing assistance with the general education of people at risk of or suffering from diseases in rural and remote areas and to also assist with engaging in the awareness of such communities about diseases;
- (i) fostering and promoting research into any aspect of health of people in rural and remote communities to assist with the prevention or control of diseases and the causes of diseases;
- (j) promoting the wellbeing of rural medical practitioners and their families to assist the medical practitioners with the prevention or control and the management and treatment of diseases of people in rural and remote communities;
- (k) setting up a gift fund to be maintained for the principal purpose of the Company and to be subject to the following:
 - (i) will receive all gifts of money or property for the principal purpose of the Company;
 - (ii) shall not receive any other money or property
 - (iii) shall only be used only for the principal purpose of the Company; and
 - (iv) in the event of the gift fund being wound up or if the endorsement (if any) of the company as a deductible gift recipient is revoked, any surplus assets of the gift fund remaining after the payment of liabilities attributable to it shall be transferred to a fund, authority or institution to which income tax deductible gifts can be made,

and to do all acts and things as may be deemed reasonably necessary or incidental to the achievement of similar objects.

4. Public company

The Company is registered as a public company limited by guarantee and accordingly:

- (a) the number of Members of the Company must not be less than one (1); and
- (b) the minimum number of Directors that the Company must have at any time is three (3).

5. Powers

The Company may by Ordinary Resolution or Special Resolution as the Law requires, exercise any power which by the Law a company limited by guarantee may exercise if authorised by its Constitution.

6. Contribution on winding up

- (a) In the event of the winding up of the Company, every Member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the property of the Company the amount which is agreed to be paid by each Member to be applied:
 - (i) to payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before ceasing to be a Member; and
 - (ii) to the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
 - (iii) for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves.
- (b) The liability of each Member under Rule 6(a) will terminate on the day which is one (1) year after the date on which the Member's membership of the Company ceases.
- (c) Until otherwise determined, the amount to be contributed by each Member under this Rule 6 will be \$10.

7. Promotion of objects

7.1 Benefit the Company

The income and property of the Company must be applied solely for the benefit and promotion of the Company's objects and no part of the income or property will be:

- (a) paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividends, bonus or otherwise to the Members; or
- (b) paid to Directors as fees or other remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth.

7.2 Exception

Nothing in this Rule 7 precludes:

- (a) payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any Director, officer or servant of the Company or to any Member in return for any services rendered to the Company;
- (b) the payment of reasonable interest on any money lent to the Company by any Member, Director or officer at a rate not exceeding the rate charged bona fide by the Company's bankers on loans of a similar amount;
- (c) in the case of any Director who is engaged by the Company as an executive director, consultant or servant, any reasonable and proper remuneration for services provided to the Company;
- (d) the repayment of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses properly incurred by any Director; or
- (e) payment of a reasonable rental for premises demised or let by any Member to the Company.

7.3 Director's prior approval

Any payment authorised under Rule 7.2 may be made only with the prior written approval of the Directors.

8. Deductible gift recipient

If the endorsement of the Company as a deductible gift recipient is revoked or the Company's gift fund is dissolved, the following shall be transferred to another registered charity to which tax deductible gifts can be made - any surplus:

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

9. Winding up or dissolution

In the event of the Company being wound up, any surplus assets remaining after the payment of the Company's liabilities shall be transferred to another registered charity.

10. Membership

10.1 Members

The Members will be made up of:

- (a) the subscribers to these Rules; and
- (b) any other persons that the Directors admit to membership in accordance with the Rules.

10.2 Classes of Membership

The membership of the Company may be divided into classes of membership at the determination of the Directors. Where the membership of the Company has been divided into classes, the Directors will determine the initial rights and duties of each class of members and of the members of each class.

10.3 Application for Membership

- (a) Any person will be eligible for membership of the Company.
- (b) In order to be admitted as a Member, every applicant for membership (other than the subscribers) must:
 - (i) execute and deliver to the Company an application for membership in the form which the Directors determine; and
 - (ii) pay to the Company the membership entrance fee (if any) determined by the Directors.
- (c) Subject to Rule 5, the Directors may create classes of Members and determine the rights and privileges attaching to those classes including, but not limited to, the voting rights of the Members in each class.

10.4 Further information

An applicant for membership must provide in writing, any other information in addition to that contained in the application, as the Directors require.

10.5 Determination of Directors

- (a) The Directors will determine the outcome of each membership application within a reasonable time after receipt.
- (b) The Directors may approve or reject any applicant for membership in the Directors' absolute discretion.
- (c) The Directors are not required to give or assign any reason or explanation for the approval or rejection of any application for membership.

10.6 Entrance fee

The Directors may determine the entrance fee payable by any person applying for membership of the Company. The Directors may at any time and as many times as they decide, change the entrance fee payable. Until the Directors otherwise determine, no entrance fee is payable.

10.7 Notification of determination

- (a) When an application for membership has been accepted, the Secretary or person nominated by the Secretary will send to the applicant written notice of the acceptance and will enter the applicant's name in the Register.
- (b) When an application for membership is rejected, the Secretary or person nominated by the Secretary will send to the applicant written notice of the rejection and the entrance fee paid, if any, by that applicant will be refunded in full.

10.8 Certificates

A certificate of membership may be issued by the Company to any Member. Any certificate issued will remain the property of the Company and must be returned to the Company on written demand by the Secretary.

10.9 Membership not transferable

Membership of the Company is not transferable by operation of law or otherwise. All rights and privileges of membership of the Company will cease immediately upon a person ceasing to be a Member for any reason.

11. Fees and levies

11.1 Fees

Members must pay annual membership fees and other fees in the amounts and at the times determined by the Directors from time to time.

11.2 Levies

In order to provide additional funds required for the operation of the Company, the Directors may determine that levies are to be paid by Members and may fix the amount and the dates for payment of them. Until determined by the Directors, no levies will be payable by Members.

11.3 Different fees or levies payable

In determining fees or levies under this Rule, the Directors may differentiate between classes of Members as to the amounts and timing of fees or levies payable.

12. Varying Members' rights

- (a) If the membership of the Company is divided into different classes of Members, the rights attached to any class of membership may be varied with the written consent of 75% of the Members in that class or with the sanction of a Special Resolution passed at a meeting of the Members of that class.
- (b) The right to vary membership rights in Rule 12(a) may be exercised unless otherwise provided by the terms of acceptance of the members of that class and whether or not the Company is being wound up.

13. By-laws, code of conduct etc.

- (a) The Directors may at any time and from time to time issue and/or impose a code of conduct, rules and/or any other by-laws, regulations or standards for the Company which may deal with any matter within the power of the Directors including (without limitation):
 - (i) the admission and/or disqualification or termination of Members;
 - (ii) any fees and levies payable by Members;
 - (iii) conditions of Membership;
 - (iv) availability of services or facilities of the Company and/or access to them by Members;
 - (v) the rights attaching to Membership;
 - (vi) the conditions for the use or licence of any trade or other mark or property of the Company; and/or
 - (vii) qualifications required for Membership.
- (b) The Directors may at any time and from time to time without notice:
 - (i) vary, amend, suspend, revoke or otherwise change any Subordinate Regulation;
 - (ii) make new Subordinate Regulations,and the Subordinate Regulations for the time being in force will be binding on all Members. The Directors may distinguish between Members in the application or enforcement of any Subordinate Regulation without giving reasons and without being liable for any loss occasioned by doing so.
- (c) In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between these Rules and any Subordinate Regulation, these Rules will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency or conflict.

14. Cessation of Membership

14.1 Non payment of fees or levies

- (a) If any fees or levies payable by a Member remain unpaid for a period, determined by the Directors, after the due date for payment, the Directors may by resolution suspend the Member's rights and privileges (including the right to vote) or terminate the Member's membership of the Company. The Directors may reinstate the Member on payment of all arrears if the Directors think fit to do so.
- (b) Until otherwise determined by the Directors, the period during which the Member's fees or levies must remain unpaid under Rule 14.1(a) will be two (2) calendar months.

14.2 Cessation of Membership

A Member's membership of the Company will cease immediately:

- (a) if the Member resigns or surrenders that membership by written notice to the Secretary;
- (b) if the Member's membership is terminated under these Rules;
- (c) in the case of a Member who is an individual, if the Member:
 - (i) dies;
 - (ii) is found to be of unsound mind;
 - (iii) has his or her personal estate administered, or it becomes liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health
 - (iv) commits an act of bankruptcy
 - (v) is declared bankrupt; or
 - (vi) makes any arrangement or enters into a composition with creditors generally; or
- (d) in the case of a Member who is not an individual, if the Member:
 - (i) has a receiver or receiver and manager appointed, or enters into official management, administration or liquidation; or
 - (ii) being a corporation, has a petition for its winding up presented to a Court having appropriate jurisdiction, or passes a resolution of its members for its winding up, or enters into a scheme or arrangement (not being merely for the purpose of amalgamation or reconstruction).

14.3 Continuing rights, liabilities etc.

The termination of a Member's membership will not prejudice, lessen or affect the rights, duties, liabilities and obligations of the Member whether they:

- (a) arise under these Rules or otherwise; or
- (b) exist at the date of the termination or arise or crystallise after that date,

and in particular, (but without limitation) that termination will not relieve a Member from any obligation to record or account for or pay any levies or fees referred to in these Rules.

14.4 Non-compliance with Constitution, misconduct

- (a) If any Member wilfully refuses or neglects to comply with this Constitution or is, does or fails to do any act or thing which, in the opinion of the Directors, is unacceptable or prejudicial to the interests of the Company, the Directors may by resolution suspend or expel the Member from the Company.
- (b) Prior to exercising the right in Rule 14.4(a), the Directors must give the Member at least one (1) weeks' notice of the meeting of the Directors at which that resolution is to be put and of what is alleged against him and of the intended resolution. The Member must be given the opportunity of giving orally or in writing the Member's explanation or defence before the passing of such resolution.

15. General meetings

15.1 Director may convene

- (a) The Chair or Secretary may convene a general meeting of Members whenever he or she decides.
- (b) If any three Directors give notice to the Secretary that they wish to convene a general meeting of Members, the Secretary must convene a general meeting at the earliest possible opportunity.

15.2 Directors convening a general meeting at the request of Members

The Directors must call and arrange to hold a general meeting on the request of:

- (a) any Member or Members holding at least 5% of the votes that may be cast at a general meeting; or
- (b) at least 100 Members who are entitled to vote at a general meeting.

15.3 Form of the Member's request

The request from the Members must:

- (a) state any resolution to be proposed at the meeting;
- (b) be signed by the Members making the request; and
- (c) be given to the Company.

15.4 Director's refusal to convene

The Directors may refuse to convene the general meeting if the voting on the proposed resolution is not within the power of the Members.

15.5 Members may convene

Two or more Members holding, between them, at least 5% of the votes that may be cast at a general meeting, may call and arrange to hold a general meeting. The Members calling the meeting must pay the expenses of calling and holding the meeting.

15.6 Notice of general meeting

- (a) A general meeting may only be convened by giving the Members notice of the meeting
- (b) A notice of general meeting does not need to be given to Members who are not entitled to notice of meetings.
- (c) A notice of a general meeting must:
 - (i) be given at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting unless otherwise agreed by all the Members entitled to notice; and
 - (ii) specify the place, the day and the time of the meeting; and
 - (iii) describe the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting; and
 - (iv) contain any other information required by the Law.
- (d) The Directors may postpone a general meeting or change the venue for the meeting by giving written notice to all Members who received the original notice of meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours before the appointed time. That notice must specify the time and place for the postponed meeting.
- (e) If a Member does not receive a meeting notice or the Directors accidentally omit to give the Member a meeting notice, that omission will not invalidate the proceedings, or any resolution passed at the meeting.
- (f) No business is to be transacted at any general meeting except that contained in the meeting notice unless all the Members agree otherwise.

15.7 Quorum

- (a) Business must not be transacted at a general meeting if a quorum of Members is not present when the meeting proceeds to business.
- (b) A quorum will be:
 - (i) if the Company has only one Member entitled to receive notice of and vote at the meeting, that Member; or
 - (ii) in every other case, two (2) Members who are entitled to receive notice of and vote at the meeting.
- (c) A quorum of Members must be present throughout each general meeting. If a quorum is not present at any time the meeting is not validly convened but without affecting the validity of any business conducted before the absence of a quorum occurs.

15.8 Determine a quorum

In determining whether a quorum is present, a person attending as a proxy, or representing a body corporate that is a member, is deemed to be a Member.

15.9 Procedure where no quorum

- (a) If a quorum is not present within thirty (30) minutes after the time appointed for the meeting:
 - (i) where the meeting was convened upon the requisition of Members, the meeting will be dissolved; or
 - (ii) in any other case, the meeting will be adjourned.
- (b) Any adjourned meeting will be rescheduled to take place on a day and time and at the place that the Directors decide.
- (c) If no Directors are present at the meeting or if no decision is made by the Directors, the meeting will take place on the same day and at the same time and place as originally notified, but in the next succeeding week.
- (d) If at the rescheduled meeting a quorum is not present within thirty (30) minutes after the appointed time, then the meeting will be dissolved unless it is adjourned under Rule 15.12.

15.10 Election of chair of meeting

- (a) The Board Chair will be deemed to be elected as the chair of each general meeting.
- (b) If the Board Chair is unavailable for a particular meeting, the Deputy Chair will be deemed to be elected as the chair of that meeting.
- (c) If both the Board Chair and the Deputy Chair are unavailable for a particular meeting, the Directors will elect one Director to preside as chair at that general meeting.

15.11 Casting vote

The Board Chair does not have a casting vote in addition to any vote the Board Chair has as a Member.

15.12 Adjournment of meeting

- (a) The chair of the meeting may adjourn any meeting of Members.
- (b) An adjournment of a meeting of Members must only be made:
 - (i) with the consent of the meeting provided a quorum is present; or
 - (ii) in the case of an adjournment under Rule 15.9(d), with the consent of Members present and entitled to vote; or
 - (iii) if directed by the meeting to do so.
- (c) Any adjournment may change the time or the venue for the meeting.
- (d) Only business left unfinished from the meeting adjourned must be transacted at any rescheduled meeting.

15.13 Adjournment of thirty (30) days

If a meeting is to be adjourned for thirty (30) days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as if it was an original meeting.

15.14 Adjournment of less than thirty (30) days

A notice of meeting is not required to be given for an adjourned meeting where the adjournment is for less than thirty (30) days.

15.15 Show of hands or poll

Any vote taken at a general meeting is decided on a show of hands unless a poll is demanded:

- (a) by the chair of the meeting; or
- (b) by at least two (2) Members present in person or by proxy; or
- (c) Members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast on the resolution on a poll, present in person or by proxy.

15.16 Declaration on show of hands

If a poll is not demanded, the chair's declaration that a resolution has been carried or lost with an entry to that effect in the minute book is conclusive evidence of that fact. It is not necessary to record the number or proportion of votes recorded for or against the resolution.

15.17 Withdraw poll

The demand for a poll may be withdrawn at any time.

15.18 Demand for poll

A poll will be taken immediately if one is demanded or at any other time after an interval or adjournment or otherwise as the chair decides. The result of the poll will be recorded as the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

15.19 Poll for chair

Any poll demanded on the election of a chair or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately.

15.20 Voting

Subject to any rights or restrictions attached to any class of membership:

- (a) at meetings of Members or classes of Members, each Member entitled to vote may vote in person or by proxy or attorney or by representative (if a body corporate); and
- (b) on a show of hands every person present who is a Member or a representative of a Member has one (1) vote, and on a poll every Member present in person or by proxy or attorney has one (1) vote.

15.21 Members not to vote unless fully paid

A Member is only entitled to vote at a general meeting if all fees and levies and other amounts presently payable by the Member have been paid.

15.22 Objection to qualification of Member

Any objection to the qualification of a person to vote must be made at the same meeting at which that person's vote is tendered. Any objection must be referred to the chair of the meeting whose decision is final and:

- (a) any vote approved will be valid for all purposes; or
- (b) any vote disallowed will be invalid and must be disregarded.

15.23 Only Members entitled to vote may vote

Only those Members who belong to a class of Members who are entitled to vote at a general meeting whether in person or by proxy will be entitled to vote.

15.24 Rights of third parties to attend general meetings

Even if they are not Members of the Company, the following persons have the right to attend any general meeting and, if requested by the Directors, to speak at the general meeting:

- (a) any Director; and
- (b) any Secretary of the Company; and
- (c) any other person invited by the Directors.

15.25 Minutes

The Directors must ensure that proper minutes are made of:

- (a) all general meetings of the Company;
- (b) all appointments of officers;
- (c) the proceedings of all general meetings;
- (d) the attendance at and business transacted at general meetings,

and the minutes of any meeting, if purporting to be signed by the chair of the meeting or by the chair of the next succeeding meeting, will be conclusive evidence of the matters recorded in them without any further proof.

16. Rules for voting by proxy

16.1 Proxies

A Member who is entitled to attend and cast a vote at a general meeting may appoint a person as the Member's proxy to attend and vote for the Member at the meeting and in that case:

- (a) the appointment may specify the proportional number of votes that the proxy may exercise;

- (b) if the Member is entitled to cast two (2) or more votes at the meeting, they may appoint two (2) proxies. If the Member appoints two (2) proxies and the appointment does not specify the proportion or number of the member's votes each proxy may exercise, each proxy may exercise half of the votes;
- (c) an appointment of a proxy may be revoked at any time before the vote to which the proxy relates is exercised by written notice delivered to the Secretary; and
- (d) any fractions of votes resulting from the application of Rules 16.1(b) or 16.1(c) must be disregarded.

16.2 Attorneys

Any Member may, by power of attorney, appoint an attorney to act on the Member's behalf at all or any meetings of the Company. The power of attorney or a copy of it, verified in a manner satisfactory to the Directors, must be produced for inspection at the registered office or any other place specified for that purpose in the notice convening the meeting with evidence of proper execution as the Directors require, not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting.

16.3 Representatives of corporations

Any corporation which is a Member may appoint a representative to attend and vote for that corporation at a general meeting of the Company.

16.4 Representative need not be a Member

A proxy, attorney or a representative need not be a Member of the Company and the appointment may be revoked at any time.

16.5 Proxy in writing

An instrument appointing a proxy must be in writing and signed by:

- (a) the appointor; or
- (b) the appointor's attorney; or
- (c) the persons authorised under the Law or by an authorised officer or attorney of the appointer, where the appointor is a body corporate.

16.6 How the proxy is to vote

If the document appointing a proxy specifies how the proxy is to vote in relation to a resolution, the proxy must vote as specified in the document. Any vote tendered otherwise is invalid and must be disregarded.

16.7 Authority for a poll

A document appointing a proxy confers the authority to demand a poll.

16.8 Form of proxy

The appointment of a proxy must be substantially in the form in Schedule 1.

16.9 Delivery of proxy before meeting

- (a) The appointment of a proxy is not valid unless the appointment document and a certified copy of any power of attorney or other authority under which that document is signed is delivered to the Company.
- (b) The relevant documents must be delivered, not less than 48 hours before the appointed meeting time.
- (c) The relevant documents must be delivered to the Company's registered office or to any other place in Australia specified in the notice convening the meeting.

16.10 Validity of proxy vote

A vote tendered in accordance with a proxy or a power of attorney is valid even if:

- (a) the appointer or principal dies or becomes mentally incapacitated
- (b) the proxy or power of attorney is revoked in any way, but only if the Company had no written notice of any defect before any authority is exercised.

16.11 Instrument not valid

An instrument appointing a proxy will not be valid after the expiration of twelve (12) months from the date of its execution.

17. Appointment, removal and remuneration of Directors

17.1 Number of Directors

The Company shall be governed by a Board of not more than nine Directors. The Board shall comprise the following:

- (a) subject to Rules 17.3 and 17.7 of this Constitution, up to eight Directors elected from the Members of the Company at each annual general meeting; and
- (b) the immediate Past President for the time being of the Rural Doctors' Association of Queensland ("RDAQ"), or if that person advises in writing that he or she is unwilling to be appointed as a Director of the Company, a nominee of the RDAQ as advised in writing by the Secretary of the RDAQ.

17.2 Casual vacancy of Directors appointed pursuant to Rule 17.1(a) of this Constitution

The Directors have the power to appoint any Member as a Director to fill a casual vacancy for Directors appointed pursuant to Rule 17.1(a) of this Constitution.

17.3 Rotation of Directors appointed pursuant to Rule 17.1(a) of this Constitution

At the first annual general meeting of the Company, all the Directors appointed pursuant to Rule 17.1(a) of this Constitution must retire from office. At every subsequent annual general meeting, one third of the Directors appointed pursuant to Rule 17.1(a) of this Constitution, or if the number of applicable Directors is not a multiple of three (3), then the number nearest to one third, must retire from office. A retiring Director is eligible for re-election. The Directors to retire at an annual general meeting are those who have been longest in office since their election. As between persons who became Directors on the same date, the Directors to retire will be determined by lot.

17.4 Removal of Director appointed pursuant to Rule 17.1(a) of this Constitution

- (a) The Company may remove any Director appointed pursuant to Rule 17.1(a) of this Constitution and appoint another Director as a replacement
- (b) The removal or replacement of a Director appointed pursuant to Rule 17.1(a) of this Constitution must be effected by Ordinary Resolution of the Company.

17.5 Directors' expenses

The Directors will be entitled to be reimbursed all travelling and other expenses properly incurred by them:

- (a) in attending meetings of the Directors or any committee of the Directors;
- (b) in attending general meetings of the Company; or
- (c) in connection with the Company's business.

17.6 Vacation of Director's office

The office of a Director becomes vacant if:

- (a) required by the Law;
- (b) the Director is removed under these Rules;
- (c) the Director dies or becomes mentally incapacitated or the Director's estate is liable to be dealt with under a law relating to mental health;
- (d) the Director becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with creditors;
- (e) the Director resigns or ceases to be a Member;
- (f) the Director is absent from Directors' meetings for at least six (6) months without the consent of the other Directors; or
- (g) the Director holds any other office of profit under the Company, except that of Managing Director, without the consent of the Company in general meeting.

17.7 The Board may prescribe a nomination procedure for becoming a Director

The Directors may prescribe a nomination procedure for Members seeking to become Directors at an annual general meeting. If the Directors prescribe a nomination procedure, a Member will only be entitled to be appointed as a Director at an annual general meeting if they have nominated for a Director position in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

17A. Officers

17A.1 Officers

From the Directors, the annual general meeting will elect the following officers who will hold office until the next annual general meeting:

- (a) a Board Chair, who will be the presiding officer of the Board;
- (b) a Deputy Chair, who will perform such duties as the Board may from time to time determine;
- (b) a Secretary, who will perform such duties as the Board may from time to time determine; and
- (c) a Treasurer, who will perform such duties as the Board may from time to time determine.

17A.2 Casual vacancy

The Board will have the power to appoint any Director to fill the position of an officer who resigns his or her position or ceases to be a Director of the Company between annual general meetings.

18. Powers and duties of Directors

18.1 Directors manage the business

- (a) Subject to the Law and to these Rules, the Company's business will be managed by the Directors.
- (b) The Directors are entitled to pay or reimburse all expenses incurred in promoting and forming the Company.
- (c) The Directors may exercise all powers of the Company except where those powers must be exercised by the Company in general meeting under the Law or these Rules.

18.2 All powers of Company

Without limiting Rule 18.1, the Directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to:

- (a) borrow money;
- (b) charge any property or business of the Company or all or any of its uncalled capital;
- (c) issue debentures; or
- (d) give any other security for a debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any other person.

18.3 Corporate groups

- (a) If the Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of another Company (the "Holding Company"), the Directors may act in the best interests of the Holding Company
- (b) The Directors must not act in the way referred to in Rule 18.3(a) if the Company is insolvent at the time or would by virtue of the Directors' actions become insolvent.

18.4 Appointment of attorney

- (a) The Directors may appoint any person or persons under a power of attorney to be the attorney or attorneys of the Company.
- (b) The appointment may be:
 - (i) for any purpose; or
 - (ii) in relation to any of the Directors' powers, authorities and discretions; or
 - (iii) for any period; and/or
 - (iv) subject to any conditions as the Directors decide.

18.4A Meetings

- (a) The Directors may meet to conduct business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meeting at any place and in any manner, that they decide, but the Directors must meet on at least four occasions in each calendar year.
- (b) The Directors may call, hold, and attend meetings of Directors, in person or remotely by any electronic or other means available.

18.4B Notice of Directors' Meetings

Not less than one week's prior notice of meetings of the Directors shall be given to Directors unless the Chair, or in his or her absence, the Secretary, deems the matter urgent, then meetings may be called upon such shorter notice as the Chair or Secretary thinks fit.

18.5 Quorum

- (a) The quorum for a Directors' meeting will be a simple majority of all appointed Directors entitled to vote at the time of the meeting.
- (b) A quorum of Directors must be present throughout each Directors' meeting. If a quorum is not present at any time, the meeting is not validly convened but without affecting the validity of any business conducted in the absence of a quorum.

18.6 Directors to continue to act

Where a vacancy in the office of a Director occurs, the remaining Directors may continue to act. If the number of remaining Directors is insufficient to constitute a quorum, the Directors may act only for the purpose of increasing the number of Directors to that required to constitute a quorum or to convene a general meeting.

18.7 Chair of Board meeting

Should the Board Chair be unable to attend a meeting of the Board, the Deputy Chair will be deemed to be elected as the chair of the meeting. If both the Board Chair and Deputy Chair are unable to attend a meeting, the Directors may elect one Director to chair the meeting.

18.8 Chair not present

Where a Directors' meeting is held and both the Board Chair and Deputy Chair:

- (a) have not been elected; or
- (b) are not present within fifteen (15) minutes after the appointed time; or

- (c) are unwilling to act,

then the Directors present will elect one (1) other Director to be chair of the meeting.

18.9 Casting votes

The Board Chair has a casting vote, 'if necessary', in addition to any vote the Board Chair has as a Director.

18.10 Circular resolution

The Directors may pass a resolution without a Directors' meeting if the majority of the Directors entitled to vote on the resolution send an email or a signed document to the Secretary and/or Chair, stating that they are in favour of the resolution.

18.11 Validity of Directors' acts

All things done by any Directors' meeting or by a committee of Directors or by any person acting as a Director will be valid even though it subsequently becomes known:

- (a) that there was some defect in the appointment of a person to be a Director or a Member of the committee, or to act as a Director; or

- (b) that a person appointed was disqualified.

18.12 Decisions of the Directors

Any question arising at a Directors' meeting or any committee of Directors is determined by a simple majority of votes of the Directors.

18.13 Minutes

The Directors will cause proper minutes to be made of:

- (a) all Directors' meetings;
- (b) all appointments of officers;
- (c) the proceedings of all Director's meetings and committees of Directors;
- (d) the attendance at all meetings of the Directors and the business transacted at those meetings,

and any minutes purporting to be signed by the chair of the meeting or by the chair of the next succeeding meeting, will be conclusive evidence of the matters recorded in them without any further proof.

19. Alternate Directors

19.1 Appointment of an alternate

A Director may appoint any person to be an alternate Director during any period as the Director requires, but only:

- (a) with the approval of the other Directors; and
- (b) while the appointor is not available to act.

19.2 Notice of meetings

An alternate Director is entitled to notice of and to vote at Directors' meetings unless the appointor is present at the meeting.

19.3 Power of alternate

An alternate Director may exercise any of the appointor's powers during any period that the appointor is unavailable to do so. The exercise of any power by the alternate Director is deemed to be the exercise of that power by the appointor.

19.4 Termination of appointment

The appointment of an alternate Director will terminate:

- (a) on notice by the appointor even though the appointment period has not expired; or
- (b) automatically if the appointor ceases to be a Director.

19.5 Responsibility

An alternate Director will, whilst acting as Director, be responsible to the Company for his or her own acts and defaults and will not be deemed to be the agent of the Director by whom he was appointed.

19.6 No remuneration

An alternate Director will not be entitled as in that capacity to receive any remuneration from the Company.

20. Interested Directors

20.1 Notice requirements

- (a) If a Director has a material personal interest in any matter that relates to the affairs of the Company, the Director must disclose that interest to the other Directors unless the Director is not required to disclose the interest in the circumstances listed in Section 191(2) of the Law.
- (b) The notice disclosing the Director's material personal interest must:
 - (i) give details of the nature and extent of the interest and how it relates to the affairs of the Company;
 - (ii) be given at a Directors' meeting as soon as practicable after the Director becomes aware of the interest; and
 - (iii) be recorded in the minutes of the Directors' meeting at which the notice is given.

20.2 Director must not vote

A Director who has a material personal interest in any matter being considered at a Director's meeting must not be present while the matter is being considered and must not vote on the matter.

20.3 Exception to Rule

Regardless of Rule 20.2, if:

- (a) the Director is not required to disclose the interest under Section 191 of the Law;
- (b) the Director has disclosed the interest under Section 191 of the Law and the other Directors not having 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 its relation to the affairs of the Company; and
 - (ii) states that those Directors are satisfied that the interest should not disqualify the Director from voting on the matter or being present; or
- (c) ASIC has determined that the Director may be present and vote under Section 196 of the Law,

then the Director may be present at the meeting considering the matter and may vote in relation to it.

20.4 No quorum available

If a quorum of Directors is not present at any meeting because of the operation of Rule 20.2, any Director may call a general meeting and the general meeting may pass a resolution to deal with the matter.

20.5 Director not disqualified

If a Director is permitted to be present and to vote by virtue of Rule 20.3:

- (a) that Director will not be disqualified by the office from contracting with the Company either as vendor, purchaser or otherwise;
- (b) no contract made by that Director with the Company and no contract or arrangement entered into by or on behalf of the Company in which that Director is in any way interested may be avoided by reason only of that Director holding that office or of the fiduciary relationship established by it;
- (c) that Director will not be liable to account to the Company for any profit realised under any contract or arrangement by reason only of that Director holding the office or of the fiduciary relationship established by it;
- (d) that Director may:
 - (i) execute any deed or document on behalf of the Company; and
 - (ii) count in a quorum.

20.6 Standing notice

- (a) A Director may give the other Directors a standing notice that:
 - (i) the Director is a Director or Member of any specified company or firm and is to be regarded as interested in all subsequent transactions with that company or firm; or
 - (ii) the Director has any other interest in any matter, at any time and whether or not the matter relates to the Company's affairs at the time.
- (b) The notice under Rule 20.6(a) must comply with Section 192 of the Law and will only be effective if it has not expired at any relevant time
- (c) If a notice is given in accordance with Rule 20.6(a) and the notice is effective at the relevant time, the notice will be sufficient disclosure under these Rules in relation to any contract, proposed contract or arrangement to be made by the Company.

20.7 Other office may be held

A Director may hold any other office or place of profit, except that of auditor, in the Company in conjunction with the directorship and may be appointed upon terms of remuneration, tenure of office and otherwise as the Directors decide.

20.8 Professional Director may act

Any Director may act in a professional capacity for the Company and will be entitled to remuneration for professional services regardless of the directorship.

21. Common seal

21.1 Election to adopt company seal

The Directors may resolve that the Company adopt a common seal. If the Company adopts a common seal, it will include:

- (a) only the Company's name where the Company has its ACN as its name; or
- (b) the Company's name, the expression "ACN" and its Australian Company Number in all other cases.

21.2 Duplicate common seal

The Directors may adopt a duplicate common seal. Any duplicate common seal must be a copy of the common seal with the words "Duplicate Seal", or "Certificate Seal" added to it.

21.3 Prohibited use

A Director must not use, or authorise the use of, a seal which purports to be the common seal of the Company (or a duplicate of the common seal) if the common seal does not comply with the requirements of this Rule.

22. Execution of documents

22.1 Execution with or without the common seal

The Company may execute a document with or without affixing a common seal. The Company executes a document if the document is signed by:

- (a) two (2) Directors; or
- (b) one (1) Director where authorised by a resolution of a Directors' meeting; or
- (c) a Director and the Secretary.

22.2 Execution of deeds

The Company may execute a document as a deed if the document is expressed to be executed as a deed and is executed in accordance with this Rule 22.

22.3 No limitation

This Rule will not be interpreted as limiting the manner in which the Company may execute a document (including a deed).

23. Committee

23.1 Delegation to committee

The Directors may delegate any of their powers to any committee or committees of Directors as they decide.

23.2 Powers of committee

A committee to which any powers have been delegated must exercise the powers delegated in accordance with any directions of the Directors. A power exercised in accordance with those directions is deemed to have been exercised by the Directors.

23.3 Committee chair

The members of a committee may elect one (1) of their number as chair of their meetings.

23.4 Election of chair

Where a committee meeting is held and:

- (a) a chair has not been elected; or
- (b) the chair is not present within fifteen (15) minutes after the appointed time; or
- (c) the chair is unwilling to act,

the committee members present may elect one (1) of their number to be chair of the meeting.

23.5 Decision by majority

Questions arising at a committee meeting will be determined by a majority of votes of the committee members who are present and voting.

23.6 Casting vote

The chair has a casting vote, if necessary, in addition to any vote the chair has as a committee member.

24. Managing Director

24.1 Appointment

The Directors may from time to time appoint one (1) or more Directors to be the Managing Director of the Company. The Managing Director's appointment will be for a period and on terms as the Directors decide. The Directors may revoke the Managing Director's appointment.

24.2 Termination

A Managing Director's appointment automatically terminates if he ceases for any reason to be a Director.

24.3 Remuneration

A Managing Director will be entitled to receive any remuneration determined by the Directors.

24.4 Powers of Managing Director

- (a) The Directors may confer upon a Managing Director any of the powers exercisable by them with any conditions or restrictions as the Directors decide.
- (b) Any of those powers may be made concurrent with or exclusive of the powers of the Directors.
- (c) The Directors may at any time withdraw or vary any of those powers.

25. Accounts and audit

25.1 Proper records kept

The Directors must ensure that proper accounting and other records are kept. A balance sheet and profit and loss account must be prepared and distributed to all Members at least once in each calendar year.

25.2 Auditor

Where required by the Law, the Company must appoint an auditor or auditors, whose duties will be regulated in accordance with the Law.

26. Reserves

26.1 Make reserve

The Directors may:

- (a) write off from the Company's earnings any amount for loss or depreciation of any property; or
- (b) set aside any amount out of the Company's profits, as a reserve fund to meet contingencies or for repairing, improving and/or maintaining any of the Company's property and/or for any other purposes which are conducive to the interests of the Company.

26.2 Deal with reserve

The Directors may:

- (a) invest, lend or dispose of any reserved amounts in any way;
- (b) deal with, vary and dispose of any investments or parts of them for the benefit of the Company;
- (c) divide the reserve fund into special funds; and/or
- (d) employ the assets constituting the reserve fund in the business of the Company and without being bound to keep the same separate from other assets.

27. Inspection of records

27.1 Conditions

The Directors may determine whether and under what conditions the accounting records or other documents of the Company will be open to the inspection of Members.

27.2 No right unless authorised

A Member does not have the right to inspect any document of the Company except as provided by the Law or authorised by the Directors or by the Company in general meeting.

27.3 Director's right

The Directors have the right at any time to inspect the accounting records or other documents of the Company, whether or not they are a Member.

28. Notices

28.1 Form of notice

Any notice or other communication in connection with this Constitution must be in writing and signed by the person giving the notice and be addressed to the Notice Address of the person to whom it is to be given.

28.2 Time of delivery

The notice or other communication will be deemed to be received:

- (a) in the case of a posted letter, on the third day after posting;
- (b) in the case of delivery by generally recognised overnight courier, on the second day after dispatch with that courier;
- (c) in the case of personal delivery, on the date of delivery;
- (d) in the case of facsimile transmission, at the time recorded on the transmission report from the machine from which the facsimile was sent; or
- (e) in the case of transmission by electronic mail, on the day of transmission if the electronic medium sending the notice states that the transmission was completed before 5:00pm on a business day, otherwise on the next business day. This method of service is effective only if the medium's report states that it was sent in full and without error and the message is not rejected or undeliverable as evidenced by a message to that effect received by the sender.

29. Indemnity and insurance

29.1 Indemnity against liability

To the extent permitted by the Law, the Company may indemnify every person who is, or who has been, a Director or officer of the Company or any Related Body Corporate against:

- (a) any liability incurred by them in their capacity as a Director or officer, to a person other than the Company or Related Body Corporate, except where the liability relates to a wilful breach of duty or a contravention of section 181-184 of the Law;
- (b) any liability for legal costs or expenses incurred by them in defending any proceedings in which judgement is given in their favour; or
- (c) any liability for legal costs or expenses incurred by them in defending any proceedings in which they are acquitted or the Court grants relief in their favour.

29.2 Insurance

To the extent permitted by the Law, the Company may insure or pay any premiums on a policy of insurance for a Director or officer of the Company or of a Related Body Corporate against any liability for which the Company indemnifies the Director or officer under Rule 30.1.

29.3 Resolution to Grant Indemnity

A Director may vote in favour of a resolution that the Company grant an indemnity pursuant to Rule 30.1, take insurance or pay the premiums on an insurance policy pursuant to Rule 30.2 even though the Director has a direct and material interest in the outcome of the resolution.

Table of revisions

Date	Revision	Reviewed	Approved
6 June 2018	Amend clauses 17.1 to 17.5	By Board of Directors	AGM
6 June 2018	Insert clause 17A	By Board of Directors	AGM
6 June 2018	Amend clause 19.5	By Board of Directors	AGM
6 June 2018	Repeal clause 26	By Board of Directors	AGM
13 February 2020	Insert new clauses 18.4A and 18.4B	By Board of Directors	EGM
13 February 2020	Amend clause 18.5 and 18.10	By Board of Directors	EGM
10 November 2021	Changes to Constitution to reflect name change to Rural Doctors Foundation	By Board of Directors	EGM
10 November 2021	Changes throughout Constitution to ensure capitalisation is consistent	By Board of Directors	EGM
10 November 2021	Add definition of Board Chair and Deputy Chair to Clause 1.1	By Board of Directors	EGM
10 November 2021	Amend Clause 3	By Board of Directors	EGM
10 November 2021	Amend Clause 18.9	By Board of Directors	EGM
10 November 2021	Minor grammatical corrections	By Board of Directors	EGM

Schedule 1

FORM OF PROXY

I / We, _____ of _____
being a Member of Rural Doctors Foundation and entitled to vote appoint

the chair of the meeting **OR** _____
(Insert name and address of proxy)

or failing that appointment or the absence of that person, the chair of the meeting**, as my/our proxy to act generally at the meeting and to vote for me on my/our behalf in accordance with the following instructions (or if no directions have been given, as the proxy sees fit and with discretion as to any business not referred to below) at the _____
[Annual] General Meeting of the Company to be held on _____ and at any adjournment of that meeting.
[insert date]

(Voting instructions, if any, are to be indicated by placing a tick in the appropriate box. If no instruction is given the proxy may vote as that person thinks fit or abstain).

Business	For	Against	Abstain*
1.1 _____ [insert]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 _____ [insert]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

AND for _____% for this proxy form.

* If you mark the abstain box for any item, you are directing the proxy not to vote on your behalf on a show of hands or on a poll and your votes will not be counted in calculating the required majority on a poll.

** If the chair of the meeting is appointed as your proxy or is appointed by default and your voting direction is not indicated, the chair may exercise your proxy even if he has an interest in the outcome of those items.

Signature of Member

Member 1 (Individual)

Joint Member 2 (Individual)

Joint Member 3 (Individual)

Sole Director / Attorney /
Authorised Person

Director / Company Secretary

Director

Notes

This form should be signed by the Member. If a joint holding, either Member may sign. If signed, by an attorney or other authorised person, the power of attorney or written authority must have been previously noted by the Company or a certified copy attached to this form. If executed by a company, the form must be executed in accordance with the Members Constitution and the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

Proxies

(a) A Member who is entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to appoint not more than 2 proxies to attend and vote instead of the Member.

(b) Where 2 proxies are appointed:

- (i) A separate proxy form should be used to appoint each proxy;
- (ii) The proxy form may specify the proportion, or number, of votes that the proxy may exercise, and if it does not do so the proxy may exercise half of the votes.

(c) A proxy need not be a Member of the Company.

(d) To be effective, proxy forms (duly completed and signed) must be received by the Company at its registered office no later than 48 hours before the time for the holding of the meeting.

Rural Doctors Foundation.

Caring • Committed • Connected



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