

**Rules Of Association
Incorporation Document
Headway Gippsland 1993**

**Revised 2021
Amended October 2023**

Rules Of The Association

Philosophy

The Philosophy Of Headway Gippsland Incorporated

1. People with acquired brain injury and other disabilities are individuals who have the inherent right to respect, for their human worth and dignity.
2. People with acquired brain injury and other disabilities and their families have the same rights and responsibilities as all members of society.
3. Services provided for people with acquired brain injury and other disabilities should respond to the needs of the individual and support their attaining full potential for physical, social, emotional, cognitive, cultural, and spiritual development and an optimum quality of life.
4. People with acquired brain injury and other disabilities should have access to all generic services and where specialist services are required; these should provide the same quality, range, and choices as for all members of the community.

Rules Of The Association

Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012

Table Of Provisions

Regulation	Page
PHILOSOPHY	2
MODEL RULES FOR AN INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION.....	6
PART 1 - PRELIMINARY	6
1. Name	6
2. Purposes.....	6
3. Financial Year.....	6
4. Definitions	6
PART 2 - POWERS OF ASSOCIATION.....	7
5. Power Of Association.....	7
6. Not For Profit Organisation	8
PART 3 - MEMBERS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES & GRIEVANCES	8
7. Minimum Number Of Members	8
8. Who Is Eligible To Be A Member	8
9. Application For Membership	8
10. Consideration Of Application	8
11. New Membership	9
12. Annual Subscription & Fee On Joining	9
13. General Rights Of Members	9
14. Alternate Membership.....	10
15. Rights Not Transferable	10
16. Ceasing Membership	10
17. Resigning As A Member	10
18. Register Of Members.....	11
19. Grounds For Taking Disciplinary Action.....	11
20. Disciplinary Committee	11
21. Notice To Member	12
22. Decision Of Committee	12
23. Appeal Rights	12
24. Conduct Of Disciplinary Appeal Meeting.....	13

Rules Of The Association

25. Application	13
26. Parties Must Attempt To Resolve The Dispute	14
27. Appointment Of Mediator	14
28. Mediation Process	14
29. Failure To Resolve Dispute By Mediation	15
PART 4 - GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION	15
30. Annual General Meetings	15
31. Special General Meetings	15
32. Special General Meeting Held At Request Of Members	16
33. Notice Of General Meetings	16
34. Proxies	17
35. Use Of Technology	17
36. Quorum At General Meetings	17
37. Adjournment Of General Meeting	18
38. Voting At General Meeting	18
39. Special Resolutions	19
40. Determining Whether Resolution Carried	19
41. Minutes Of General Meeting	19
PART 5 - COMMITTEE	20
42. Role & Powers	20
43. Delegation	20
44. Composition Of Board	21
45. General Duties	21
46. Chairperson & Deputy-Chairperson	22
47. Secretary	22
48. Treasurer	22
49. Who Is Eligible To Be A Board Director	23
50. Positions To Be Declared Vacant	23
51. Nominations	23
52. Election of Board Executive	24
53. Election of Board Directors	24
54. Ballot	24

Rules Of The Association

55. Term Of Office	25
56. Vacation Of Office.....	26
57. Filling Casual Vacancies.....	26
58. Meetings Of Board	26
59. Notice Of Meetings	27
60. Urgent Meetings.....	27
61. Procedure & Order Of Business.....	27
62. Use Of Technology	27
63. Quorum.....	27
64. Voting.....	28
65. Conflict Of Interest	28
66. Minutes Of Meeting.....	28
67. Leave Of Absence	29
PART 6 - FINANCIAL MATTERS	29
68. Source Of Funds.....	29
69. Management Of Funds	29
70. Financial Records	30
71. Financial Statements	30
PART 7 - GENERAL MATTERS	30
72. Common Seal	30
73. Registered Address	31
74. Notice Requirements	31
75. Custody & Inspection Of Books & Records.....	31
76. Winding Up & Cancellation	32
77. Life Membership	32
78. Alteration Of Rules.....	32

Rules Of The Association

MODEL RULES FOR AN INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

Note

The persons who from time to time are members of the Association are an incorporated association by the name given in rule 1 of these Rules.

Under section 46 of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, these Rules are taken to constitute the terms of a contract between the Association and its members.

PART 1 - PRELIMINARY

1. Name

The name of the incorporated association is "Headway Gippsland Incorporated".

Note

Under section 23 of the Act, the name of the association and its registration number must appear on all its business documents.

2. Purposes

The purposes of the association are:

- To provide support, information and training for individuals, carer/family members and the general community.
- To provide information and referrals to appropriate service providers.
- To assist people with acquired brain injury and other disabilities in identifying their individual needs.
- To encourage community involvement.
- To ensure the financial stability of the organisation
- To support people with acquired brain injury and other disabilities in learning social and independent living skills in order to enable them to expand their options within a community of their choice.

3. Financial Year

The financial year of the Association is each period of 12 months ending on 30 June each year.

4. Definitions

In these Rules-

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

associate member means a member referred to in rule 14(1);

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

Rules Of The Association

Board means the Board having management of the business of the Association;

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

Board director means a member of the Board 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 Board convened for the purposes of rule 22;

disciplinary committee means the committee appointed under rule 20;

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 2 - POWERS OF ASSOCIATION

5. Power 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 subrule (1), the Association may
 - (a) acquire, hold, and dispose of real or personal property;
 - (b) open and operate accounts with financial institutions;
 - (c) invest its money in any security in which trust monies may lawfully be invested;
 - (d) raise and borrow money on any terms and in any manner as it thinks fit in consultation with professional advice;
 - (e) secure the repayment of money raised or borrowed, or the payment of a debt or liability;
 - (f) appoint agents to transact business on its behalf;
 - (g) enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.

Rules Of The Association

- (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) Subrule (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 memberif 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 3 - MEMBERS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES & 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 over 16 years of age who supports the purposes of the Association is eligible for membership.

9. Application For Membership

- (1) To apply to become a member of the Association, a person must submit a written application in the form contained in appendix A hereof
- (2) The application-
 - (a) must be signed by the applicant and be nominated by a member of the Association; and
 - (b) may be accompanied by the joining fee.

Note

The joining fee is the fee (if any) determined by the Association under rule 12(3).

10. Consideration Of Application

- (1) As soon as practicable after an application for membership is received, the Board must decide by resolution whether to accept or reject the application.

Rules Of The Association

- (2) The Board must notify the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as practicable after the decision is made.
- (3) If the Board 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 Board
 - (a) pass a resolution to accept the membership and record in the minutes of the Board meeting; and
 - (b) the Board must, as soon as practicable, ensure that the name and address of the new member, and the date of becoming a member, is entered 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 Board approves the person's membership; or
 - (b) the person pays the joining fee.

12. Annual Subscription & Fee On Joining

- (1) Annual subscriptions shall be set and made payable on the first day of July in each year, the amounts to be determined by the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- (2) Office Holders of the Association may at their discretion waive all or part of the subscription fees for any member having regard to questions of disadvantage or other necessitous circumstances.
- (3) The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual subscription within 3 months of 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 be eligible to vote at a general meeting after becoming a paid-up member.
 - (e) to have access to the minutes of general meetings and other documents of the Association as provided under rule 75;
 - (f) to inspect the register of members.

Rules Of The Association

- (2) A member is entitled to vote if-
 - (a) the member is a member other than an associate member; and
 - (b) the member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason.
 - (c) the new membership has been paid 3 months before the AGM.

14. Alternate Membership

- (1) **Family** membership with only one member entitled to vote. This voting member is to be nominated at the time of joining. The family may from time to time appoint an alternative member subject to notice in writing being given to that effect to the Board approving such alternative voting member.
- (2) **Associate** or any other category of member as determined by special resolution at a general meeting.
- (3) Register of Affiliate Member Associations
 - (a) The Secretary shall keep and maintain a register of Affiliate member Association including name, address, and date of entry of the Association.
 - (b) Office Holders may require from time to time: -
 - (i) the imposition of annual subscription;
 - (ii) proof of incorporation.
 - (c) Members of the Affiliate Member Association are not excluded from applying for separate membership of Headway Gippsland in accordance with Rule 3 herein.

15. Rights Not Transferable

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

16. 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.

17. Resigning As A Member

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

Note

Rule 74(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 board.

- (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-

Rules Of The Association

- (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.

18. 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;
 - (iv) if the member is an associate member, a note to that effect;
 - (v) any other information determined by the Board; 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.

Division 2 - Disciplinary Action

19. Grounds For Taking Disciplinary Action

The Association may take disciplinary action against a member in accordance with this Division 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 Committee

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

Rules Of The Association

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 committee 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 committee at that meeting;
 - (ii) give a written statement to the disciplinary committee at any time before the disciplinary meeting; and
 - (e) setting out the member's appeal rights under rule 23.
- (2) At least 14 days' notice must be given before the disciplinary meeting is held.

22. Decision Of Committee

- (1) At the disciplinary meeting, the disciplinary committee must-
 - (a) allow the member to have an advocate present
 - (b) give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (c) consider any written statement submitted by the member.
- (2) After complying with subrule (1), the disciplinary committee may-
 - (a) take no further action against the member; or
 - (b) subject to subrule (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 committee may not fine the member.
- (4) The suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the disciplinary committee 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.

Rules Of The Association

- (2) The notice must be in writing and given-
 - (a) to the disciplinary committee 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 subrule (2), a disciplinary appeal meeting must be convened by the Board 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 Board 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.
 - (d) the person whose membership has been suspended or who has been expelled may have an advocate present and the advocate given an opportunity to be heard.
- (2) After complying with subrule (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-

Rules Of The Association

- (a) a member and another member;
 - (b) a member and the Board;
 - (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 themselves within the time required by rule 26, the parties must within 10 days-
- (a) notify the Board 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 Board; or
 - (ii) if the dispute is between a member and the Board or the Association, a person appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.
- (3) A mediator appointed by the Board 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 the member to have an advocate present
 - (c) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
 - (d) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.

Rules Of The Association

- (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 4 - GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

30. Annual General Meetings

- (1) The Board must convene an annual general meeting of the Association to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (2) Despite subrule (1), the Association may hold its first annual general meeting at any time within 18 months after its incorporation.
- (3) The Board 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 Board 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 Board in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
 - (c) to elect the directors of the Board;
 - (d) to confirm or vary the amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee.
- (5) To elect an auditor for the ensuing year.
- (6) 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 an appeal meeting, is a special general meeting.
- (2) The Board 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.

Rules Of The Association

32. Special General Meeting Held At Request Of Members

- (1) The Board must convene a special general meeting if a request to do so is made in accordance with subrule (2) by at least 5 members.
- (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 Board 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 subrule (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 subrule (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

Rules Of The Association

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 Board 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 Board has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (6) A form appointing a proxy must be given to the Secretary 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, the members 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 subrule (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 5 members who are entitled to vote and are physically present or participate by teleconference.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting—

Rules Of The Association

- (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 subrule, 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 subrule (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 subrule (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 Board 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 subrule (3), each member who is entitled to vote has one vote; and
 - (b) members may vote personally or by proxy; and

Rules Of The Association

- (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 board member from office;
- (b) to alter these Rules, including 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 three or more members 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 Board must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each general meeting.

Rules Of The Association

- (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 names of the members attending the meeting; and
 - (b) proxy forms given to the Secretary 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 board 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 5 - COMMITTEE

Division 1 - Powers Of Board

42. Role & Powers

- (1) The business of the Association must be managed by or under the direction of a Board.
- (2) The Board 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 Board may-
 - (a) appoint and remove a Chief Executive Officer;
 - (b) appoint and remove staff in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer;
 - (c) delegate responsibilities and duties in a letter of appointment to the Chief Executive Officer;
 - (d) establish committees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate.

43. Delegation

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

Rules Of The Association

Division 2 - Composition Of Board & Duties Of Members

44. Composition Of Board

The Board consists of-

- (a) A minimum of five members, elected at the Annual General Meeting, up to a maximum of ten.
- (b) The Board membership should endeavour to reflect a preference for members with an Acquired Brain Injury elected in accordance with rule 53.
- (c) These elected board members will elect from their numbers:
 - i. a Chairperson; and
 - ii. a Deputy-Chairperson; and
 - iii. a Secretary; and
 - iv. a Treasurer.
- (d) The Board may recruit members of the community with the appropriate skills to either fill the vacancies or provide specialist advice to the Board as required from time to time.

45. General Duties

- (1) As soon as practicable after being elected or appointed to the Board, each board member must become familiar with these Rules and the Act.
- (2) The Board is collectively responsible for ensuring that the Association complies with the Act and that individual members of the Board comply with these Rules.
- (3) At the first meeting of the new Board, elections are to be conducted to appoint the Executive being a Chairperson; a Deputy Chairperson; a Secretary; and a Treasurer.
- (4) Board members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence.
- (5) Board members must exercise their powers and discharge their duties-
 - i. in good faith in the best interests of the Association; and
 - ii. for a proper purpose.
- (6) Board members and former Board members must not make improper use of:
 - i. their position; or
 - ii. information acquired by virtue of holding their position—
 1. so as to gain an advantage for themselves or any other person or to cause detriment to the Association.
 2. **Note**
 3. see also Division 3 of Part 6 of the Act which sets out the general duties of the office holders of an incorporated association.

Rules Of The Association

- (7) In addition to any duties imposed by these Rules, a board member must perform any other duties imposed from time to time by resolution at a general meeting.

46. Chairperson & Deputy-Chairperson

- (1) Subject to subrule (2), the Chairperson or, in the Chairperson's absence, the Deputy-Chairperson is the Chairperson for any general meetings and for any board meetings.
- (2) If the Chairperson and the Deputy-Chairperson are both 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 board meeting—a board member elected by the other board 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.

Example

Under the Act, the secretary of an incorporated association is responsible for lodging documents of the association with the Registrar.

- (2) The Secretary must:
 - (a) ensure the register of members is maintained in accordance with rule 18; and
 - (b) ensure custody of the common seal (if any) of the Association and, except for the financial records referred to in rule 70(3), all books, documents, and securities of the Association in accordance with rules 72 and 75; 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.

48. Treasurer

- (1) The Treasurer must-
 - (a) oversee 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) oversee any payments authorised by the Board or by a general meeting of the Association from the Association's funds; and

Rules Of The Association

- (d) ensure cheques and electronic transfers are signed and approved by at least 2 board directors or any two staff members (or a combination of those) authorised by the board to perform that function.
- (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 Board prior to their submission to the annual general meeting of the Association.
- (3) The Treasurer must ensure that at least one other board director has access to the accounts and financial records of the Association.
- (4) The Treasurer will delegate the day-to-day functions and responsibilities under Rule 48(1) to a paid employee of the Association operating under the supervision of the Chief Executive Officer, but cannot delegate the ultimate responsibility of Treasurer under Rule 48(2).

Division 3 - Election Of Board Directors & Tenure Of Office

49. Who Is Eligible To Be A Board Director

A member is eligible to be elected or appointed as a board member if the member-

- (a) is 18 years or over; and
- (b) is entitled to vote at a general meeting; and
- (c) not a current employee of Headway Gippsland Inc.

The Chief Executive Officer will attend the Board meeting for the purpose of making a report but will not be a Board director.

50. Positions To Be Declared Vacant

- (1) This rule applies to-
 - (a) the first annual general meeting of the Association after its incorporation; or
 - (b) any subsequent annual general meeting of the Association, after the annual report and financial statements of the Association have been received.
- (2) The Chairperson of the meeting must declare all positions at the end of their period of service on the Board vacant and hold elections for those positions in accordance with rules 51 to 54.

51. Nominations

- (1) Prior to the election of positions, the Chairperson of the meeting must call for nominations to fill the positions.
- (2) An eligible member of the Association may-
 - (a) nominate himself or herself; or

Rules Of The Association

- (b) with the member's consent, be nominated by another member.

52. Election of Board Executive

- (1) At the Annual General Meeting, elections must be held for board. At least five members are elected (under rule 53). The five board members will elect from their numbers at their first board meeting:
- i. a Chairperson; and
 - ii. a Deputy-Chairperson; and
 - iii. a Secretary; and
 - iv. a Treasurer

53. Election of Board Directors

- (1) At the Annual General Meeting, elections must be held for those Board positions that have become vacant to meet the minimum requirement of five Directors.
- (2) Proposed Directors will nominate for a three-year period.
The Board can, in special circumstances, vary the term of office, not exceeding three years.
- (3) There is a requirement that one position be responsible for convening a Consumer Advisory Committee, with a preference, but not a requirement, that this position will be filled by a Director from the consumer group, who can fulfil the requirements of the Board role and Chairing the Consumer Advisory Committee.
- (4) If more than 10 members are nominated, a ballot must be held.
- (5) Prior to the annual General Meeting the role of Director is to be publicly advertised, if Director positions need to be filled. The advertisements will highlight the areas of the Board skills matrix. The Board is to appoint a selection committee to review applications. Applications for Director positions are to be reviewed against the board skills matrix. Potential Directors meeting the requirements as determined by the selection committee are then to be put forward for election at the Annual General Meeting.
- (6) The maximum continuous term any Board Director can serve is 9 years (or 3 x three-year terms).

54. Ballot

- (1) If a ballot is required for the election for a position, the Chairperson of the meeting must appoint a member to act as returning officer to conduct the ballot.
- (2) The returning officer must not be a member nominated for the position.
- (3) Before the ballot is taken, each candidate may make a short speech in support of his or her election.
- (4) The election must be by secret ballot.

Rules Of The Association

- (5) The returning officer must give a blank piece of paper to any member who is entitled to vote
 - (a) each member present in person; and
 - (b) each proxy appointed by a member.

Example

If a member has been appointed the proxy of 5 other members, the member must be given 6 ballot papers, one for the member and one each for the other members.

- (6) If the ballot is for a single position, the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote.
- (7) If the ballot is for more than one position
 - (a) the voter must write on the ballot paper the name of each candidate for whom they wish to vote;
 - (b) the voter must not write the names of more candidates than the number to be elected.
- (8) Ballot papers that do not comply with subrule (7)(b) are not to be counted.
- (9) Each ballot paper on which the name of a candidate has been written counts as one vote for that candidate.
- (10) The returning officer must declare elected the candidate or, in the case of an election for more than one position, the candidates who received the most votes.
- (11) If the returning officer is unable to declare the result of an election under subrule (10) because 2 or more candidates received the same number of votes, the returning officer must
 - (a) conduct a further election for the position in accordance with subrules (4) to (10) to decide which of those candidates is to be elected; or
 - (b) with the agreement of those candidates, decide by lot which of them is to be elected.

Examples

The choice of candidate may be decided by the toss of a coin, drawing straws, or drawing a name out of a hat.

55. Term Of Office

- (1) Subject to sub rule (3) and rule 56, a board director holds office for the term they were elected until the next relevant annual general meeting.
- (2) A board director may be re-elected.
- (3) A general meeting of the Association may-
 - (a) by special resolution remove a board director from office; and

Rules Of The Association

- (b) elect an eligible member of the Association to fill the vacant position in accordance with this Division.
- (4) A director who is the subject of a proposed special resolution under subrule (3)(a) may make representations in writing to the Secretary or Chairperson of the Association (not exceeding a reasonable length) and may request that the representations be provided to the members of the Association.
- (5) The Secretary or the Chairperson may give a copy of the representations to each member of the Association or, if they are not so given, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting at which the special resolution is to be proposed.

56. Vacation Of Office

- (1) A board director may resign from the Board by written notice addressed to the Board.
- (2) A person ceases to be a board director if he or she-
 - (a) ceases to be a member of the Association; or
 - (b) fails to attend 3 consecutive board meetings (other than special or urgent board meetings) without leave of absence under rule 67.

Note, a Board director may not hold the office of secretary if they do not reside in Australia.

57. Filling Casual Vacancies

- (1) The Board may appoint an eligible member of the Association to fill a position on the Board that-
 - (a) has become vacant under rule 56; or
 - (b) was not filled by election at the last annual general meeting.
- (2) If the position of Secretary becomes vacant, the Board must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
- (3) Rule 55 applies to any board director appointed by the Board under subrule (1) or (2).
- (4) The Board may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

Division 4 - Meetings Of Board

58. Meetings Of Board

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

Rules Of The Association

59. Notice Of Meetings

- (1) Notice of each board meeting must be given to each board director no later than 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- (2) Notice may be given of more than one board meeting at the same time.
- (3) The notice must state the date, time, and place of the meeting.
- (4) If a special board 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.

60. Urgent Meetings

- (1) In cases of urgency, a meeting can be held without notice being given in accordance with rule 59 provided that as much notice as practicable is given to each board director by the quickest means practicable.
- (2) Any resolution made at the meeting must be passed by an absolute majority of the Board.
- (3) The only business that may be conducted at an urgent meeting is the business for which the meeting is convened.

61. Procedure & Order Of Business

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

62. Use Of Technology

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

63. Quorum

- (1) No business may be conducted at a Board meeting unless a quorum, being considered as half of the members, is present.
- (2) The quorum for a board meeting is the presence (in person or as allowed under rule 62) of a majority of the board directors holding office.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a board meeting
 - (a) in the case of a special meeting - the meeting lapses;

Rules Of The Association

- (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 59.

64. Voting

- (1) On any question arising at a board meeting, each board director present at the meeting has one vote.
- (2) A motion is carried if a majority of board directors present at the meeting vote in favour of the motion.
- (3) Subrule (2) does not apply to any motion or question which is required by these Rules to be passed by an absolute majority of the Board.
- (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.

65. Conflict Of Interest

- (1) A board director who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a board meeting must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the Board.
- (2) The director-
 - (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.

66. Minutes Of Meeting

- (1) The Board must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each board meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the following—
 - (a) the names of the directors 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 65.

Rules Of The Association

67. Leave Of Absence

- (1) The Board may grant a board director leave of absence from board meetings for a period not exceeding 3 months.
- (2) The Board must not grant leave of absence retrospectively unless it is satisfied that it was not feasible for the board member to seek the leave in advance.

PART 6 - FINANCIAL MATTERS

68. Source Of Funds

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

69. 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) Maintaining The Gift Fund
 - (a) The Association must maintain for its principle purpose a fund (the "Gift Fund");
 - i. To which gifts of money or property for that purpose are to be made; and
 - ii. To which any money received by the organisation because of such gifts is to be credited; and
 - iii. That does not receive any other money or property
 - iv. The Board must authorise all monies spent from the Gift Fund.
- (3) Limits on use of the Gift Fund
 - (a) The Association must use the following only for its principal purpose;
 - i. gifts made to the Gift Fund;
 - ii. any money received because of such gifts.
- (4) Subject to any restrictions imposed by a general meeting of the Association, the Board may approve expenditure on behalf of the Association.
- (5) The Board may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the Association (including by electronic funds transfer) for ordinary business expenditure in accordance with board approved budgets, without requiring approval from the Board for each item in the approved budgets on which the funds are expended.
- (6) All EFTS must be signed off by two Board directors or by any two board appointed Association staff nominees. (see financial policy)
- (7) All funds of the Association must be deposited into the financial account of the Association no later than 5 working days after receipt.

Rules Of The Association

- (8) With the approval of the Board, the Treasurer or the Treasurer's Association staff nominee 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.

70. 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 records are secured and maintained at the office of Headway Gippsland and the day-to-day control is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, as authorised by the Treasurer and Board.
 - (a) the financial records for the current financial year; and
 - (b) any other financial records as authorised by the Board.

71. Financial Statements

- (1) For each financial year, the Board must ensure that the requirements under the Act relating to the financial statements of the Association are met.
- (2) Without limiting subrule (1), those requirements include—
 - (a) the preparation of the financial statements;
 - (b) the review or auditing of the financial statements;
 - (c) the certification of the financial statements by the Board;
 - (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 7 - GENERAL MATTERS

72. 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) a document may only be sealed with the common seal by the authority of the Board and the sealing must be witnessed by the signatures of two board members;

Rules Of The Association

- (c) the common seal must be kept in the custody of the Chief Executive Officer and held at the Office of Headway Gippsland.

73. Registered Address

The registered address of the Association is

- (a) the address determined from time to time by resolution of the Board; or
- (b) if the Board has not determined an address to be the registered address, the postal address of the Secretary.

74. Notice Requirements

- (1) Any notice required to be given to a member or a board director 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) Subrule (1) does not apply to notice given under rule 60.
- (3) Any notice required to be given to the Association or the Board may be given
 - (a) by handing the notice to a director of the Board; 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 Board 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.

75. Custody & Inspection Of Books & Records

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

Note

See note following rule 18 for details of access to the register of members.

- (2) The Board may refuse to permit a member to inspect records of the Association that relate to contracts, confidential, personal, employment, commercial or legal matters or where to do so may be prejudicial to the interests of the Association.

Rules Of The Association

- (3) The Board 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 with prior written approval of the Secretary 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.

76. Winding Up & Cancellation

- (1) The Association may be wound up voluntarily by special resolution.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The body to which the surplus assets are to be given must be decided by special resolution.

77. Life Membership

Applications for Life Membership will be considered in line with the Headway Gippsland Inc Life Membership Policy.

78. Alteration Of Rules

These Rules 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. If these Rules (other than rule 1, 2 or 3) are altered, the Association is taken to have adopted its own rules, not the model rules.