

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS VICTORIA**  
**Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012**

**RULES**

**For the AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH**  
**Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012**

**Part 3**

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## 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 " Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research Incorporated" ("ASSCR") .

#### 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 ASSCR are

- To promote the discipline of stem cell biology and research and the application of regenerative medicine therapies in Australasia,
- To promote education and disseminate scientific information on stem cell biology and regenerative medicine, and
- To disseminate scientific information and advocate Government and relevant regulatory authorities on policy-making, legislation, and funding of stem-cell biology and regenerative medicine.

#### 3 Financial year

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

#### 4 Definitions

In these Rules—

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

***associate member*** means a member as defined in Rules 8, 14;

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

***Committee*** means the Committee having management of the business of the ASSCR;

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

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

***corporate membership*** means a member as defined in Rule 8

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

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

***disciplinary subcommittee*** means the subcommittee appointed under rule 20;

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

***full member*** means a member as defined in Rule 8;

***general meeting*** means a general meeting of the members of the ASSCR 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 as defined in Rule 8

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

***online ballot*** means the process for electing Committee members, which will be carried out and managed by the ASSCR or its third party members' registry provider.

***postal ballot*** means a ballot for the election of Committee members where voting slips are distributed to voting members who then return the same to the ASSCR in self-addressed envelopes, which will be provided at the same time.

***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;

***student member*** means a member as defined in Rule 8;

***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.

***voting member*** means a full member or a student member

## **PART 2—POWERS OF ASSOCIATION**

### **5 Powers of Association**

- (1) Subject to the Act, the ASSCR has power to do all things incidental or conducive to achieve its purposes.
- (2) Without limiting subrule (1), the ASSCR 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;
  - (e) appoint agents to transact business on its behalf;
  - (f) enter into any other contract it considers necessary or desirable.
- (3) The ASSCR may only exercise its powers and use its income and assets (including any surplus) for its purposes.

### **6 Not for profit organisation**

- (1) The ASSCR must not distribute any surplus, income or assets directly or indirectly to its members.

(2) Subrule (1) does not prevent the ASSCR from paying a member—

- (a) reimbursement for expenses properly incurred by the member; or
- (b) for goods or services provided by the member—

if this is done in good faith on terms no more favourable than if the member was not a member.

**Note**

Section 33 of the Act provides that an incorporated association must not secure pecuniary profit for its members. Section 4 of the Act sets out in more detail the circumstances under which an incorporated association is not taken to secure pecuniary profit for its members.

## **PART 3—MEMBERS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND GRIEVANCES**

### **Division 1—Membership**

#### **7 Minimum number of members**

The ASSCR must have at least 5 members.

#### **8 Member categories**

- (1) A full member is a person working in a professional capacity in a stem cell and/or regenerative medicine or related field,
- (2) A student member is a tertiary student studying in a stem cell and/or regenerative medicine or related field.
- (3) An associate member is any other person (other than full member or student member) interested in stem cells and/or regenerative medicine or a related area as defined in Rule 14
- (4) A corporate member is a corporation or professional society interested in stem cells and/or regenerative medicine or a related area. The ASSCR will from time to time issue written regulations governing this class of membership.

#### **9 Application for membership**

- (1) To apply to become a member of the ASSCR, a person, corporation or society must submit a written application to a Committee member stating that they
  - (a) wish to become a member of the ASSCR, stating which member category they are applying for
  - (b) support the purposes of the ASSCR; and
  - (c) agree to comply with these Rules.
- (2) The application—
  - (a) must be signed by the applicant;
  - (b) accompanied by the joining fee.

**Note**

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

#### **10 Consideration of application**

- (1) As soon as practicable after an application for membership is received, the Committee must decide by resolution whether to accept or reject the application.
- (2) The Committee must notify the applicant in writing of its decision as soon as practicable after the decision is made.

- (3) If the Committee rejects the application, it must return any money accompanying the application to the applicant.
- (4) No reason need be given for the rejection of an application.

## **11 New membership**

- (1) If an application for membership is approved by the Committee—
  - (a) the resolution to accept the membership must be recorded in the minutes of the Committee meeting; and
  - (b) the Secretary (or such other organisation as the Committee delegates) must, as soon as practicable, enter the name and address of the new member, and the date of becoming a member, in the register of members.
- (2) A person, corporation or society becomes a member of the ASSCR 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 Committee approves the person's membership; or
  - (b) the person pays the joining fee.

## **12 Annual subscription and fee on joining**

- (1) At each annual general meeting, the ASSCR must determine—
  - (a) the amount of the annual subscription (if any) for the following year; and
  - (b) the date for payment of the annual subscription.
- (2) The resolution submitted to members will detail the amount payable by each level of membership.
- (3) New members who join the ASSCR during the year shall pay a fee equal to—
  - (a) the full annual subscription amount if they join between 1 August and 31 January; or
  - (b) a pro rata annual subscription based on the remaining part of the subscription year; or
  - (c) \$0 if they join between 1 May and 31 July or their subscription includes the following year..
- (4) The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual subscription by the due date are suspended until the subscription is paid.

## **13 General rights of members**

- (1) A member of the ASSCR who is entitled to vote has the right—
  - (a) to receive notice of general meetings and of proposed special resolutions in the manner and time prescribed by these Rules; and
  - (b) to submit items of business for consideration at a general meeting; and
  - (c) to attend and be heard at general meetings; and
  - (d) to vote at a general meeting; and
  - (e) to have access to the minutes of general meetings and other documents of the ASSCR as provided under rule 75; and
  - (f) to inspect the register of members.
- (2) A member is entitled to vote if—
  - (a) the member is a member other than an associate or corporate member; and

- (b) more than 10 business days have passed since he or she became a member of the ASSCR; and
- (c) the member's membership rights are not suspended for any reason.

#### **14 Associate members**

- (1) Associate members of the ASSCR include—
  - (a) any members under the age of 15 years; and
  - (b) any other category of member as determined by special resolution at a general meeting.
- (2) An associate member must not vote but may have other rights as determined by the Committee or by resolution at a general meeting.

#### **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 ASSCR, the Secretary (or such other organisation the Committee delegates) 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 ASSCR.

##### **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 Committee.

- (2) A member is taken to have resigned if—
  - (a) the member's annual subscription is more than 12 months in arrears; or
  - (b) where no annual subscription is payable—
    - (i) the Secretary has made a written request to the member to confirm that he or she wishes to remain a member; and
    - (ii) the member has not, within 3 months after receiving that request, confirmed in writing that he or she wishes to remain a member.

#### **18 Register of members**

- (1) The Secretary (or such other organisation as the Committee delegates) must keep and maintain a register of members that includes—
  - (a) for each current member—
    - (i) the member's name;
    - (ii) the address and email for notice last given by the member;
    - (iii) the date of becoming a member;
    - (iv) the category of membership and if the category changes the date upon which the change occurred;
    - (v) any other information determined by the Committee; and
  - (b) for each former member, the date of ceasing to be a member.

- (2) Any voting 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 ASSCR 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 ASSCR; or
- (c) has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the ASSCR.

### **20 Disciplinary subcommittee**

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

### **21 Notice to member**

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

### **22 Decision of subcommittee**

- (1) At the disciplinary meeting, the disciplinary subcommittee must—
  - (a) give the member an opportunity to be heard; and
  - (b) consider any written statement submitted by the member.



- (2) After complying with subrule (1), the disciplinary subcommittee 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 ASSCR.
- (3) The disciplinary subcommittee may not fine the member.
- (4) The suspension of membership rights or the expulsion of a member by the disciplinary subcommittee under this rule takes effect immediately after the vote is passed.

### **23 Appeal rights**

- (1) A person whose membership rights have been suspended or who has been expelled from the ASSCR under rule 22 may give notice to the effect that he or she wishes to appeal against the suspension or expulsion.
- (2) The notice must be in writing and given—
  - (a) to the disciplinary subcommittee immediately after the vote to suspend or expel the person is taken; or
  - (b) to the Secretary not later than 48 hours after the vote.
- (3) If a person has given notice under subrule (2), a disciplinary appeal meeting must be convened by the Committee as soon as practicable, but in any event not later than 21 days, after the notice is received.
- (4) Notice of the disciplinary appeal meeting must be given to each member of the ASSCR 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 Committee must state the grounds for suspending or expelling the member and the reasons for taking that action; and
  - (c) the person whose membership has been suspended or who has been expelled must be given an opportunity to be heard.
- (2) After complying with 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—
- (a) a member and another member;
  - (b) a member and the Committee;
  - (c) a member and the ASSCR.
- (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 Committee of the dispute; and
  - (b) agree to or request the appointment of a mediator; and
  - (c) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (2) The mediator must be—
- (a) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
  - (b) in the absence of agreement—
    - (i) if the dispute is between a member and another member—a person appointed by the Committee; or
    - (ii) if the dispute is between a member and the Committee or the ASSCR—a person appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria.
- (3) A mediator appointed by the Committee may be a member or former member of the ASSCR but in any case must not be a person who—
- (a) has a personal interest in the dispute; or
  - (b) is biased in favour of or against any party.

#### **28 Mediation process**

- (1) The mediator to the dispute, in conducting the mediation, must—
- (a) give each party every opportunity to be heard; and
  - (b) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party; and
  - (c) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties throughout the mediation process.

- (2) The mediator must not determine the dispute.

## **29 Failure to resolve dispute by mediation**

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

### **PART 4—GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

## **30 Annual general meetings**

- (1) The Committee must convene an annual general meeting of the ASSCR to be held within 5 months after the end of each financial year.
- (2) Despite subrule (1), the ASSCR may hold its first annual general meeting at any time within 18 months after its incorporation.
- (3) The Committee may determine the date, time and place of the annual general meeting.
- (4) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting is as follows—
  - (a) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since then;
  - (b) to receive and consider—
    - (i) the annual report of the Committee on the activities of the ASSCR during the preceding financial year; and
    - (ii) the financial statements of the ASSCR for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
  - (c) to advise of the results in regard to the election of members of the Committee;
  - (d) to confirm or vary the amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee.
- (5) The annual general meeting may also conduct any other business of which notice has been given in accordance with these Rules.

## **31 Special general meetings**

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

### **Note**

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

## **32 Special general meeting held at request of members**

- (1) The Committee must convene a special general meeting if a request to do so is made in accordance with subrule (2) by at least 10% of the total number of 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 Committee does not convene a special general meeting within one month after the date on which the request is made, the members making the request (or any of them) may convene the special general meeting.
- (4) A special general meeting convened by members under 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 ASSCR 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 ASSCR—
  - (a) at least 21 days' notice of a general meeting if a special resolution is to be proposed at the meeting; or
  - (b) at least 14 days' notice of a general meeting in any other case.
- (2) The notice must—
  - (a) specify the date, time and place of the meeting; and
  - (b) indicate the general nature of each item of business to be considered at the meeting; and
  - (c) if a special resolution is to be proposed—
    - (i) state in full the proposed resolution; and
    - (ii) state the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution; and
  - (d) comply with rule 34(5).
- (3) This rule does not apply to a disciplinary appeal meeting.

#### **Note**

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

### **34 Proxies**

- (1) A voting member may appoint another voting 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. Associate members or corporate members do not have proxy rights.
- (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 Committee has not 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 Committee has approved for the appointment of a proxy.
- (6) Proxies are not permitted to be used for Online Ballot or Postal Ballot for the election of office bearers and ordinary members of the Committee.
- (7) A form appointing a proxy hand delivered, sent by post or electronically is of no effect unless it is received by the Secretary of the ASSCR no later than 48 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

### **35 Use of technology**

- (1) A member not physically present at a general meeting may be permitted to participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that member and the members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other. This rule will only apply if two-way communications has been set up.
- (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 providing it is not a vote as a result of a ballot being called for. If a ballot is called this member's vote can only be included if a proxy had been lodged in accordance with Rule 34.

### **36 Quorum at general meetings**

- (1) No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members is present.
- (2) The quorum for a general meeting is the presence (physically, by proxy or as allowed under rule 35) of 10% of the members entitled to vote or 20 voting members, whichever is the greater.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a general meeting—
  - (a) in the case of a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members under rule 32— the meeting must be dissolved;

#### **Note**

If a meeting convened by, or at the request of, members is dissolved under this 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 9) 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 Committee at an annual general meeting.

- (3) No business may be conducted on the resumption of an adjourned meeting other than the business that remained unfinished when the meeting was adjourned.
- (4) Notice of the adjournment of a meeting under this rule is not required unless the meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, in which case notice of the meeting must be given in accordance with rule 33.

### **38 Voting at general meeting**

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting—
  - (a) subject to subrule (3), each voting member who is entitled to vote has one vote; and
  - (b) Subject to rule 35(2) voting members may vote personally or by proxy; and
  - (c) except in the case of a special resolution, the question must be decided on a majority of votes.
- (2) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (3) If the question is whether or not to confirm the minutes of a previous meeting, only voting 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 voting members voting at a general meeting (whether in person or by proxy) vote in favour of the resolution.

#### **Note**

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

- (a) to remove a Committee member from office ;
- (b) to alter these Rules, 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 (which includes an allowance for members at the meeting via technology under rule 35(2)), 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 voting members on any question—
  - (a) Subject to rule 35(2) the poll must be taken at the meeting in the manner determined by the Chairperson of the meeting; and
  - (b) the Chairperson must declare the result of the resolution on the basis of the poll.
- (3) A poll demanded on the election of the Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment must be taken immediately.
- (4) A poll demanded on any other question must be taken before the close of the meeting at a time determined by the Chairperson.

#### **41 Minutes of general meeting**

- (1) The Committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each general meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the business considered at the meeting, any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote.
- (3) In addition, the minutes of each annual general meeting must include—
  - (a) the names of the members attending the meeting; and
  - (b) a list of proxy appointments given to the ASSCR of the meeting under rule 34(7).
- (4) In addition, the attached documents must be kept with the minutes-
  - (a) Proxy forms given to the Chairperson of the meeting under rule 34(7); and
  - (b) the financial statements submitted to the members in accordance with rule 30(4)(b)(ii); and
  - (c) the certificate signed by two Committee members certifying that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the ASSCR; and
  - (d) 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 Committee**

#### **42 Role and powers**

- (1) The business of the ASSCR must be managed by or under the direction of a Committee.
- (2) The Committee may exercise all the powers of the ASSCR except those powers that these Rules or the Act require to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the ASSCR.
- (3) The Committee may—
  - (a) appoint and remove staff;
  - (b) establish subcommittees consisting of members with terms of reference it considers appropriate.

### **43 Delegation**

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

### **Division 2—Composition of Committee and duties of members**

### **44 Composition of Committee**

The Committee consists of—

- (a) a President; and
- (b) a Vice-President; and
- (c) a Secretary; and
- (d) a Treasurer; and
- (e) 5 ordinary members (if any) elected under rule 53.

### **45 General Duties**

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

#### **Note**

See also Division 3 of Part 6 of the Act which sets out the general duties of the office holders of an incorporated association.

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

### **46 President and Vice-President**

- (1) Subject to subrule (2), the President or, in the President's absence, the Vice-President is the Chairperson for any general meetings and for any Committee meetings.



- (2) If the President and the Vice-President 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 Committee meeting—a Committee member elected by the other Committee members present.

#### **47 Secretary**

- (1) The Secretary must perform any duty or function required under the Act to be performed by the secretary of an incorporated association.

##### **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) maintain the register of members in accordance with rule 18. The Committee has the right to delegate this function to a third party organisation, providing a copy of the master membership listing is maintained by the Secretary; and
  - (b) keep custody of the common seal (if any) of the ASSCR and, except for the financial records referred to in rule 70(3), all books, documents and securities of the ASSCR 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 or such other organisation as the Committee delegates must—
  - (a) receive all moneys paid to or received by the ASSCR and issue receipts for those moneys in the name of the ASSCR; and
  - (b) ensure that all moneys received are paid into the account of the ASSCR within 5 working days after receipt; and
  - (c) make any payments authorised by the Committee or by a general meeting of the ASSCR from the ASSCR's funds; and
  - (d) ensure cheques are signed by at least 2 Committee members.
- (2) The Treasurer must—
  - (a) ensure that the financial records of the ASSCR are kept in accordance with the Act; and
  - (b) coordinate the preparation of the financial statements of the ASSCR and their certification by the Committee prior to their submission to the annual general meeting of the ASSCR.
- (3) The Treasurer must ensure that at least one other Committee member has access to the accounts and financial records of the ASSCR.

### **Division 3—Election of Committee members and tenure of office**

#### **49 Who is eligible to be a Committee member?**

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

- (a) is 18 years or over; and
- (b) is entitled to vote at a general meeting.

#### **50 Positions to be declared vacant**

- (1) Each year the relevant positions that are due for election will be declared vacant by the ASSCR in time for the elections to be held and the results given to the annual general meeting.
- (2) Positions due for election will be determined in accordance with Rules 52 and 53.
- (3) Notwithstanding the conditions of this rule current office holders whose position has been declared vacant will remain in office until the annual general meeting.

#### **51 Nominations**

- (1) The election process must allow time to enable members to nominate for any of the vacant positions.
- (2) An eligible member of the ASSCR may—
  - (a) nominate himself or herself; or
  - (b) with the member's consent, be nominated by another member;
  - (c) with the member's consent, nominate another qualified member.
- (3) All nominations must be seconded by a fully-paid member.

#### **52 Election of Office Bearers**

- (1) The Vice President will assume the President's role for a 2-year period in the even years;
  - (a) The Vice-President will be elected for a 2-year period in the even years after which time the Vice-President will then assume the President's role for the following 2-year period;
  - (b) The Secretary will be elected for a 2-year period in the odd years; and
  - (c) The Treasurer will be elected for a 2-year period in the odd years.
- (2) If only one member is nominated for the position, the member will be elected to the position.
- (3) If more than one member is nominated, an election ballot must be held in accordance with rule 54.
- (4) On his or her election, the new President takes over as Chairperson of the Annual General Meeting just prior to the conclusion of the meeting provided he or she is present. Otherwise the meeting is closed by the incoming Vice President.

#### **53 Election of ordinary members**

- (1) At an annual general meeting members can decide by resolution the number of ordinary members of the Committee (if any) they wish to hold office. Any change in the number will only apply from the following annual general meeting and will remain in place until changed by a further resolution.
- (2) Each year up to half the committee must retire from office. The committee members who have served longest since being last elected must retire first. If these are equally serving

members, those equally serving members may, among themselves agree who is to retire by rotation. If members are unable to decide then the members to retire will be chosen by drawing lots.

- (3) Ordinary members will be elected for two years and a member being elected as they enter their sixth year in office will be permitted to see out their two year term
- (4) If the number of members nominated for the position of ordinary Committee member is less than or equal to the number to be elected, the members nominated will be elected to the positions.
- (5) If the number of members nominated exceeds the number to be elected, an election ballot must be held in accordance with rule 54.

#### **54 Ballot**

- (1) The ballot method used to elect office bearers and ordinary members is at the discretion of the Committee and can be undertaken by way of an Online Ballot, Postal Ballot or a ballot in accordance with subrules (6) to (11).
- (2) If an Online or Postal Ballot is required for the election of office bearers and ordinary members of the Committee, the Committee must appoint two Returning Officers to oversee the ballot
- (3) The Returning Officers must not be a member nominated for any position on the committee.
- (4) If a ballot is required in accordance with subrule (2) above, the Returning Officers in conjunction with the Secretary will ensure that all voting members of the ASSCR are provided with a Notice of Election that includes;
  - (a) instructions advising which ballot method will be used and advising of the closing date for voting;
  - (b) If by Postal Ballot instructions on how to complete ballot paper and return it to ASSCR;
  - (c) If by Online Ballot instructions on how to access the website and complete the voting process; and
  - (d) a background brief on each person nominated. This brief will be supplied by the candidates to the Committee and must not be more than 250 words in length.
- (5) All Postal Ballot papers or the online voting data will be forwarded to the Returning Officers for processing as a secret ballot. The Returning Officers will count the postal votes submitted or verify the online data provided and advise the President and Secretary of the results of the ballot. The postal ballot papers and/or online voting data will then be sealed into a storage envelope to be retained by the Secretary until after the annual general meeting .
- (6) If there is a need for a ballot in regards to any resolution, including the election of Office Bearers or ordinary committee members at the annual general meeting, the Chairman will appoint two Returning Officers (can be the same members as in subrule (2) above). The Returning Officer must give a blank piece of paper to—
  - (a) each voting 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.

- (7) If the ballot is for a single resolution, the voter must write on the ballot paper “for” or “against”.
- (8) If the ballot is for more than one resolution—
  - (a) the Chairperson of the meeting must advise members of the respective resolution numbers; and
  - (b) against each resolution number the voter must write “for” or “against”.
- (9) Ballot papers that do not comply with subrules (7) and(8) will not to be counted.
- (10) The Returning Officer will advise the Chairperson of the outcome(s) of the ballot and the Chairperson will then declare the results to the meeting.
- (11) If there is an even vote on any resolution then the Chairperson has a casting vote in accordance with rule 38(2).

## **55 Term of office**

- (1) Subject to subrule (3) and rule 50, 52, 53 and 56, a committee member holds office for up to two years.
- (2) A committee member may be re-elected. The maximum period in which a member may serve on the committee is six years, (subject to sub rule 53(3)), and subject to any extension granted by members by resolution at an annual general meeting
- (3) A general meeting of the ASSCR may—
  - (a) by special resolution remove a committee member from office; and
  - (b) elect an eligible member of the ASSCR to fill the vacant position in accordance with this Division.
- (4) A member who is the subject of a proposed special resolution under subrule (3)(a) may make representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the ASSCR (not exceeding a reasonable length) and may request that the representations be provided to the members of the ASSCR.
- (5) The Secretary or the President may give a copy of the representations to each member of the ASSCR 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 committee member may resign from the Committee by written notice addressed to the Committee.
- (2) A person ceases to be a committee member if he or she—
  - (a) ceases to be a member of the ASSCR; or
  - (b) fails to attend 3 consecutive committee meetings (other than special or urgent committee meetings) without leave of absence under rule 67; or
  - (c) otherwise ceases to be a committee member by operation of section 78 of the Act.

### **Note**

A Committee member may not hold the office of secretary if they do not reside in Australia.

## **57 Filling casual vacancies**

- (1) The Committee may appoint an eligible member of the ASSCR to fill a position on the Committee 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 Committee must appoint a member to the position within 14 days after the vacancy arises.
  - (3) A member appointed under this rule must retire at the next annual general meeting and is eligible for re-election. Any member so appointed is included in the numbers required under Rule 53 (2)
  - (4) Rule 55 applies to any committee member appointed by the Committee under subrule (1) or (2).
  - (5) The Committee may continue to act despite any vacancy in its membership.

#### **Division 4—Meetings of Committee**

##### **58 Meetings of Committee**

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

##### **59 Notice of meetings**

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

##### **61 Procedure and order of business**

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

## **62 Use of technology**

- (1) A committee member who is not physically present at a committee meeting may participate in the meeting by the use of technology that allows that committee member and the committee members present at the meeting to clearly and simultaneously communicate with each other.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, a committee member participating in a committee meeting as permitted under 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 Committee meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (2) The quorum for a committee meeting is the presence (in person or as allowed under rule 62) of a majority of the committee members holding office.
- (3) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the notified commencement time of a committee meeting—
  - (a) in the case of a special meeting—the meeting lapses;
  - (b) in any other case—the meeting must be adjourned to a date agreed to by those present on the day. Notice of the revised 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 committee meeting, each committee member present at the meeting has one vote.
- (2) A motion is carried if a majority of committee members present at the meeting vote in favour of the motion.
- (3) 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 Committee.
- (4) If votes are divided equally on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- (5) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

## **65 Conflict of interest**

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

### **Note**

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

- (3) This rule does not apply to a material personal interest—
  - (a) that exists only because the member belongs to a class of persons for whose benefit the ASSCR is established; or
  - (b) that the member has in common with all, or a substantial proportion of, the members of the ASSCR.

## **66 Minutes of meeting**

- (1) The committee must ensure that minutes are taken and kept of each committee meeting.
- (2) The minutes must record the following—
  - (a) the names of the members in attendance at the meeting;
  - (b) the business considered at the meeting;
  - (c) any resolution on which a vote is taken and the result of the vote;
  - (d) any material personal interest disclosed under rule 65.

## **67 Leave of absence**

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

## **PART 6—FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **68 Source of funds**

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

### **69 Management of funds**

- (1) The ASSCR must open an account with a financial institution from which all expenditure of the ASSCR is made and into which all of the ASSCR's revenue is deposited. Income and expenditure in regards to membership fees and conferences may be processed through a professional third party, which will be responsible for providing the ASSCR with audited details of all income and Expenditure.
- (2) Subject to any restrictions imposed by a general meeting of the ASSCR, the Committee may approve expenditure on behalf of the ASSCR.
- (3) The Committee may authorise the Treasurer to expend funds on behalf of the ASSCR (including by electronic funds transfer) up to a specified limit without requiring approval from the Committee for each item on which the funds are expended.
- (4) All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by 2 authorised committee members.
- (5) All funds of the ASSCR must be deposited into the financial account of the ASSCR no later than 5 working days after receipt.
- (6) With the approval of the Committee, the Treasurer may maintain a cash float provided that all money paid from or paid into the float is accurately recorded at the time of the transaction.

### **70 Financial records**

- (1) The ASSCR 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 ASSCR must retain the financial records for 7 years after the transactions covered by the records are completed.

- (3) The Treasurer must keep in his or her custody, or under his or her control—
  - (a) the financial records for the current financial year; and
  - (b) any other financial records as authorised by the Committee.

#### **71 Financial statements**

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

### **PART 7—GENERAL MATTERS**

#### **72 Rule has been deleted**

#### **73 Registered address**

The registered address of the ASSCR is—

- (a) the address determined from time to time by resolution of the Committee; or
- (b) if the Committee 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 committee member under these Rules may be given—
  - (a) by handing the notice to the member personally; or
  - (b) by sending it by post to the member at the address recorded for the member on the register of members; or
  - (c) by email or facsimile transmission.
- (2) Subrule (1) does not apply to notice given under rule 60.
- (3) Any notice required to be given to the ASSCR or the Committee may be given—
  - (a) by handing the notice to a member of the Committee; or
  - (b) by sending the notice by post to the registered address; or
  - (c) by leaving the notice at the registered address; or
  - (d) if the Committee determines that it is appropriate in the circumstances—
    - (i) by email to the email address of the ASSCR or the Secretary; or
    - (ii) by facsimile transmission to the facsimile number of the ASSCR.



## **75 Custody and inspection of books and records**

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

### **Note**

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

- (2) The Committee may refuse to permit a member to inspect records of the ASSCR that relate to confidential, personal, employment, commercial or legal matters or where to do so may be prejudicial to the interests of the ASSCR.
- (3) The Committee must on request make copies of these rules available to members and applicants for membership free of charge.
- (4) Subject to subrule (2), a member may make a copy of any of the other records of the ASSCR referred to in this rule and the ASSCR 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 ASSCR 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 ASSCR.

## **76 Winding up and cancellation**

- (1) The ASSCR may be wound up voluntarily by special resolution.
- (2) In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the ASSCR, the surplus assets of the ASSCR must not be distributed to any members or former members of the ASSCR.
- (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 ASSCR 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 Alteration of Rules**

These Rules may only be altered by special resolution of a general meeting of the ASSCR.

### **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.