

CONSTITUTION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The AIDS Housing Action Group of Victoria Incorporated is established to provide appropriate housing and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS. The activities of the organization uphold the principles of; independence; equality of access and opportunity; maximising the amount of choice, control and participation available to people living with HIV/AIDS; upholding the rights of all tenants, consumers, staff and volunteers.

AIMS

To provide appropriate housing and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS necessary for the maintenance of their health and independence.

To provide all services to all people with HIV/AIDS regardless of race, class, sexuality, gender, belief or ability.

To provide people living with HIV/AIDS with the information, assistance and resources necessary for them to access appropriate housing and support.

To promote awareness of HIV and housing issues and uphold the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS.

To work towards the elimination of discrimination and harassment of people with HIV/AIDS in housing.

To work towards better access to housing and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. The name of the Incorporated Association is The AIDS Housing Action Group of Victoria Incorporated (AHAG) in these rules called “the Association”.

INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 In these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears:
- “Committee” means the Committee of Management of the Association.
 - “Financial Year” means the year ending June 30.
 - “General Meeting” means a general meeting of members convened in accordance with Rule 11.
 - “Member” means a member of the Association.
 - “Ordinary Member of the Committee” means a member of the Committee who is not an officer of the Association under Rule 21.
 - “The Act” means the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.
 - “The Regulations” means Regulations under the Act.
- 2.2 In these Rules, a reference to the Secretary of the Association is a reference:
- (a) where a person holds office under these Rules as Secretary of the Association – to that person; and
 - (b) in any other case, to the Public Officer of the Association.
- 2.3 Words or expressions contained in these Rules shall be interpreted in accordance with the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 and the Act as in force from time to time.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 A natural person, organisation or recognised group who is nominated and approved for membership as provided in these Rules is eligible to be a member of the Association.
- 3.2 A person, organisation or recognised group who is not a member of the Association at the time of incorporation of the Association (or who was a member at that time but has ceased to be a member) shall not be admitted to membership:
- (a) unless nominated as provided in sub-clause 3; and
 - (b) the admission as a member is approved by the Committee.
- 3.3 A nomination of a person, organisation or recognised group for membership of the Association:
- (a) shall be made in writing in the form set out in Appendix 1;
 - (b) shall be lodged with the Secretary of the Association.
- 3.4 As soon as is practicable after the receipt of a nomination, the Secretary shall refer the nomination to the Committee.

- 3.5 Upon a nomination being referred to the Committee, the Committee shall determine whether to approve or reject the nomination.
- 3.6 Upon a nomination being approved by the Committee, the Secretary shall, with as little delay as possible, notify the nominee in writing of the approval for membership of the Association.
- 3.7 The Secretary shall enter the nominee's name in the register of members and, upon the name being so entered, the nominee becomes a member of the Association.
- 3.8 A right, privilege, or obligation of a person, organisation or recognised group by reason of membership of the Association;
 - (a) is not capable of being transmitted to another person; and
 - (b) terminates upon the cessation of membership, whether by death or resignation or otherwise.
- 3.9 At Annual General Meetings and Special Meetings each member of the organisation has only one vote. Organisations who are members only have one vote.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- 4 AHAG membership will need to be renewed annually. Membership will close at the commencement of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting for the purpose of elections.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

- 5 The Secretary shall keep and maintain a register of members in which shall be entered the full name, address and date of entry of the name of each member and the register shall be available for inspection and copying by members upon request.

RESIGNATION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBER

- 6.1 A member of the Association may resign from the Association by first giving one month's notice in writing to the Secretary of his or her intention to resign and upon the expiration of that period of notice, the member ceases to be a member.
- 6.2 Upon the expiration of a notice given under sub-clause 1, the Secretary shall make in the register of members an entry recording the date on which the member by whom the notice was given, ceased to be a member.
- 7.1 Subject to these Rules, the Committee may by resolution:
 - (a) expel a member from the Association;

- (b) suspend a member from membership of the Association for a specified period if the committee is of the opinion that the member:
 - (c) has refused or neglected to comply with these Rules; or
 - (d) has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
- 7.2 A resolution of the Committee under sub-clause 1:
- (a) does not take effect unless the Committee, at a meeting held not earlier than 14 and not later than 28 days after the service on the member of a notice under sub-clause 3 confirms the resolution in accordance with this clause.
- 7.3 If the Committee passes a resolution under sub-clause 1, the secretary shall, as soon as practicable, cause to be serviced on the member a notice in writing:
- (a) setting out the resolution of the Committee and the grounds on which it is based;
 - (b) stating that the member may address the Committee at a meeting not to be held earlier than 14 and not less than 28 days after service of the notice;
 - (c) stating the date and time of the meeting;
 - (d) informing the member that he or she may do one or more of the following:
 - (i) Attend that meeting
 - (ii) Give to the Committee before the date of that meeting a written statement seeking the revocation of the resolution; and
 - (iii) Not later than 24 hours before the date of the meeting lodge with the Secretary a notice to the effect that her or she wishes to appeal to the Association in general meeting against the Resolution.
- 7.4 At a meeting of the Committee held in accordance with sub-clause 2, the Committee;
- (a) shall give to the member an opportunity to be heard;
 - (b) shall give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the member; and
 - (c) shall by resolution determine whether to confirm or to revoke the resolution.
- 7.5 If the Secretary receives a notice under sub-section 3 he or she shall notify the Committee and the Committee shall convene a general meeting of the Association to be held within twenty-one days after the date on which the Secretary received the notice.
- 7.6 At a general meeting of the Association convened under sub-section 5;
- (a) no business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted;
 - (b) the Committee may place before the meeting details of the grounds for the resolution and the reasons for the passing of the resolution;
 - (c) the member shall be given the opportunity to be heard; and
 - (d) the members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution shall be confirmed or revoked.

- 7.7 If at the general meeting;
- (a) two thirds of the members vote in person or by proxy in favour of the confirmation of the resolution, the resolution is confirmed; and
 - (b) in any other case, the resolution is revoked.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 8.1 The Association shall in each calendar year convene an annual general meeting of its members.
- 8.2 The annual general meeting shall be held on such day as the Committee determines.
- 8.3 The annual general meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it.
- 8.4 The ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be;
- (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of an general meeting held since that meeting;
 - (b) to receive from the Committee reports upon the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year.
 - (c) to elect officers of the Association and the ordinary members of the Committee; and
 - (d) to receive and consider the statement submitted by the Association in accordance with section 30 (3) of the Act.
- 8.5 The annual general meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.
- 8.6 The annual general meeting shall be in addition to any other general meetings that may be held in the same year.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- 9 All general meetings other than the annual general meeting shall be called special general meetings.
- 10.1 The Committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting of the Association and, where, but for this sub-clause, more than fifteen months would elapse between annual general meetings, shall convene a special general meeting before the expiration of that period.
- 10.2 The Committee shall, on the requisition in writing of members representing not less than 5 per cent of the total number of members, convene a special general meeting of the Association.

- 10.3 The requisition for a special general meeting shall state the objects of the meeting and shall be signed by the members making the requisition and be sent to the address of the Secretary and may consist of several documents in a like form, each signed by one of more of the members making the requisition.
- 10.4 If the Committee does not cause a special general meeting to be held within the month after the date on which the requisition is sent to the address of the Secretary, the members making the requisition, or any of them, may convene a special general meeting to be held not later than three months after that date.
- 10.5 A special general meeting convened by members in pursuance of these Rules shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which those meetings are convened by the Committee and, all reasonable expenses incurred in convening the meeting shall be refunded by the Association to the persons incurring the expenses.

NOTICE OF MEETING

- 11.1 The Secretary of the Association shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for holding a general meeting of the Association, cause to be sent to each member of the Association at the address appearing in the register of members, a notice by pre-paid post stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- 11.2 No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting shall be transacted at the meeting.
- 11.3 A member desiring to bring any business before a meeting may give notice of that business in writing to the Secretary, who shall include that business in the notice calling the next general meeting after receipt of the notice.

PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS

- 12.1 All business transacted at a special general meeting and all business that is transacted at the annual general meeting with the exception of that specifically referred to in these Rules as being the ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be deemed to be special business.
- 12.2 No items of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under these Rules to vote is present during the time when the meeting is considering that item.
- 12.3 Five members personally present (being members entitled under these Rules to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.

- 12.4 If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of members shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and (unless another place is specified by the Chairperson at the time of the adjournment or by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place and if at the adjourned meeting the quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being not less than 3) shall be a quorum.
- 13.1 The President, or in the President's absence, the Vice-President, shall preside as Chairperson at each general meeting of the Association.
- 13.2 If the President and the Vice-President are absent from the meeting the members present shall elect one of their number to preside as Chairperson at the meeting.
- 14.1 The Chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is preset may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- 14.2 Where a meeting is adjourned for fourteen days or more, a like notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the general meeting.
- 14.3 Except as provided in sub-clause 1 and 2, it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.
- 15 A question arising at a general meeting of the Association shall be determined on a show of hands and unless, before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded, a declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, and an entry to that effect in the Minute Book of the Association is evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of, or against, that resolution.
- 16.1 Upon any question arising at a general meeting of the Association, a member has one vote only.
- 16.2 All votes shall be given personally, by proxy or by postal vote.
- 16.3 In the case of an equality of voting on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- 17.1 If at a meeting a poll on any question is demanded by not less than three members, it shall be taken at that meeting in such a manner as the Chairperson

- may direct and the resolution of the poll shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting on that question.
- 17.2 A poll that is demanded on the election of a Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment shall be taken forthwith and a poll that is demanded on any question shall be taken at such time before the close of the meeting as the Chairperson may direct.
- 18.1 Each member is entitled to appoint another member as a proxy by notice given to the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed.
- 18.2 The notice appointing the proxy shall be in the form set out in Appendix 2.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

- 19.1 The affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Committee of Management constituted as provided in Rule 21.
- 19.2 The Committee:
- (a) shall control and manage the business and affairs of the Association;
 - (b) may, subject to these Rules, the Regulations and the Act, exercise all such powers and functions as may be exercised by the Association other than those powers and functions that are required by these Rules to be exercised by general meetings of the members of the Association; and
 - (c) subject to these Rules, the Regulations and the Act, has power to perform all such acts and things as appear to the Committee to be essential for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Association.
- 20.1 The officers of the Association shall be:
- (a) a President;
 - (b) a Vice-President;
 - (c) a Treasurer; and
 - (d) a Secretary
- 20.2 The provisions of Rule 22 so far as they are applicable and with the necessary modifications, apply to and in relation to the election of personal to any of the offices mentioned in sub-clause 1.
- 20.3 Each officer of the Association shall hold office until the annual general meeting next after the date of his or her election but is eligible for re-election.
- 20.4 In the event of a casual vacancy in any office referred to in sub-clause 1 the Committee may appoint one of its members to the vacant office and the member so appointed may continue in office up to and including the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of the appointment.

- 21.1 Subject to section 22 of the Act, the Committee shall consist of;
- (a) the officers of the Association;
 - (b) a representative of the People Living with AIDS Victoria Association;
 - (c) a staff representative; and
 - (d) two ordinary members
- each of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Association in each year.
- 21.2 Each ordinary member of the Committee shall, subject to these Rules, hold office until the annual general meeting next after the date of election but is eligible for re-election.
- 21.3 In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of an ordinary member of the Committee, the Committee may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed shall hold office, subject to these Rules, until the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of appointment.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND VACANCY

- 22.1 Nominations of candidates for election as officers of the Association or as ordinary members of the Committee;
- (a) shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and
 - (b) Nominations close at the commencement of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting.
- 22.2 If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the Committee, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the annual general meeting.
- 22.3 If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the person nominated shall be deemed to be elected.
- 22.4 If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held.
- 22.5 The ballot for the election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee shall be conducted at the annual general meeting in such usual and proper manner as the Committee may direct.
- 22.6 A nomination of a candidate for election under this clause is not valid if that candidate has been nominated for another office for election at the same time.

- 23 For the purposes of these Rules, the office of an officer of the Association or of an ordinary member of the Committee becomes vacant if the officer or member:
- (a) ceases to be a member of the Association;
 - (b) becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Companies (Victoria) Code; or
 - (c) resigns from office by notice in writing given to the Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

- 24.1 The Committee shall meet at least 3 times in each year at such a place and such a time as the Committee may determine.
- 24.2 Special meetings of the Committee may be convened by the President or by any four of the members of the Committee.
- 24.3 Notice shall be given to members of the Committee of any special meeting specifying the general nature of the business to be transacted and no other business shall be transacted as such a meeting.
- 24.4 Any four members of the Committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Committee.
- 24.5 No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week unless the meeting was a special meeting in which case it lapses.
- 24.6 At meetings of the Committee:
- (a) the President or in the President's absence the Vice-President shall preside; or
 - (b) if the President and the Vice-President are absent, such one of the remaining members of the Committee as may be chosen by the members shall preside.
- 24.7 Questions arising at a meeting of the Committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the Committee shall be determined by a show of hands or, if demanded by a member, by a poll taken in such a manner as the person presiding at the meeting may determine.
- 24.8 Each member present at a meeting of the Committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the Committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote and, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
- 24.9 Written notice of each Committee meeting shall be served on each member of the Committee by delivering it to members at a reasonable time before the meeting or

by sending it by pre-paid post addressed to him or her at his or her usual or last know place or abode at least two business days before the date of the meeting.

- 24.10 Subject to sub-clause 4 the Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the Committee.

SECRETARY

- 25 The Secretary of the Association shall keep minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of each general meeting and each Committee meeting in books provided for that purpose together with a record of the names of persons present at Committee meetings.

TREASURER

- 26 The Treasurer of the Association:
- (a) shall collect and receive all moneys due to the Association and make all payments authorised by the Association; and
 - (b) shall keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the Association with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the Association.

REMOVAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

- 27.1 The Association in general meeting may by resolution remove any member of the Committee before the expiration of the member's term of office and appoint another member in his or her stead to hold office until the expiration of the term of the first-mentioned member.
- 27.2 Where the member to whom a proposed resolution referred to in sub-clause 1 makes representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the Association (not exceeding a reasonable length) and requests that they be notified to the members of the Association, the Secretary or the President may send a copy of the representations to each member of the Association or, if they are not so sent, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting.

CHEQUES

- 28 All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by two members of the Committee.

SEAL

- 29.1 The Common Seal of the Association shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary.

- 29.2 The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Committee and the affixing of the Common Seal shall be attested by the signatures either of two members of the Committee or of one member of the Committee and of the Public Officer of the Association.

ALTERATION OF RULES AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

- 30 These Rules and the Statement of Purposes of the Association shall not be altered except in the accordance with the Act.

NOTICES

- 31.1 A notice may be served by or on behalf of the Association upon any member either personally or by sending it by post to the other member at the address shown in the Register of Members.
- 31.2 Where a document is properly addressed prepaid and posted to a person as a letter, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been given to the person at the time at which the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.

WINDING UP OR CANCELLATION

- 32 In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the Association, after debts are paid, any assets of the Association remaining are to be transferred to another organisation or organisations that have similar aims and objective to this group. Such transfers must be made to organisations approved by the Commissioner of Taxation under sub-section (i) or (ii) of Section 78 (i) (a) of the Income Assessment Act.

CUSTODY OF RECORDS

- 33.1 Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, the Secretary shall keep in his or her custody or under his or her control all books, documents and securities of the Association.
- 33.2 All accounts, books, documents and securities of the association shall be available for inspection and copying by any member of the Association upon request.

FUNDS

- 34 The funds of the Association shall be derived from any sources as the Committee determines within its aims and stated purposes.
- 35 The Association shall be a non-profit making organisation and no portion of the Association's monies or property shall be paid or transferred to any member of

the Association except bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.

DISPUTES AND MEDIATION

- 36.1 The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these Rules between - a member and another member; or a member and the Association.
- 36.2 The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all the parties.
- 36.3 If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.
- 36.4 The mediator must be -
(a) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
(b) in the absence of agreement -
(i) in the case of a dispute between a member and another member, a person appointed by the committee of the Association; or
(ii) in the case of a dispute between a member and the Association, a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (Department of Justice).
- 36.5 A member of the Association can be a mediator.
- 36.6 The mediator cannot be a member who is a party to the dispute.
- 36.7 The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.
- 36.8 The mediator, in conducting the mediation, must –
(a) give the parties to the mediation process 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 to the dispute throughout the mediation process.
- 36.9 The mediator must not determine the dispute.
- 36.10 If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.