



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Australia

Constitution

ACN 067 616 193

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Table of contents

Preamble	5
1. Name	6
2. Purpose	6
2.1 Principal Purpose and powers	6
2.2 Application of income and property	6
2.3 Distribution of assets on revocation of endorsement or winding up.....	6
3. Membership	7
3.1 Eligibility	7
3.2 Membership Classes	7
3.3 Application.....	8
3.4 Admission	8
3.5 Register	9
3.6 Expulsion and suspension of Members	9
3.7 Cessation of Membership	10
3.8 Life members	10
4. Meetings and resolutions of members.....	11
4.1 Proceedings of Members	11
4.2 Annual General Meeting	11
4.3 Convening a National Council	11
4.4 Changes to National Council arrangements	11
4.5 Entitlement to receive notice	12
4.6 Notice of National Council	12
4.7 Timing of notice	12
4.8 Chair of National Council	12
4.9 Role of chairperson of National Council	13
4.10 Quorum for National Council	13
4.11 Adjournment of National Council.....	13
4.12 Method of Voting	14
4.13 Voting rights	14
4.14 Decisions of the Members	14
4.15 Seconding	14
4.16 Proxies	14
4.17 Use of virtual meeting technology in meetings	15
4.18 Resolutions without meetings	15
5. Directors	15
5.1 Number of Directors	15
5.2 Eligibility	16

5.3	Appointment of Directors.....	16
5.4	Term of office	16
5.5	Casual vacancy in directorship	17
5.6	Effect of casual vacancy	17
5.7	Defects in appointment of Directors	17
5.8	Chair and Office Bearers	17
5.9	Chief executive officer.....	18
5.10	Secretary	18
6.	Proceedings of the board	18
6.1	Powers of the Board	18
6.2	By-laws.....	19
6.3	Appointment of attorney	19
6.4	Meetings of the Board	19
6.5	Convening Board meetings	19
6.6	Entitlement to receive notice of Board meetings	19
6.7	Content of notice of Board meetings.....	19
6.8	Timing of notice of Board meetings.....	19
6.9	Chair of Board meetings	19
6.10	Quorum for Board meetings	20
6.11	Voting at Board meetings	20
6.12	Establishment of committees	20
6.13	Delegation of powers.....	20
6.14	Use of virtual meeting technology in Board meetings.....	20
6.15	Resolutions without meetings.....	20
7.	Directors' duties and interests.....	21
7.1	Duties of Directors	21
7.2	Disclosure of interests	21
7.3	Participation in decisions	21
7.4	Directors' interests	22
8.	Administration	22
8.1	Minutes.....	22
8.2	Accounts and other records of the Company.....	23
8.3	Members' access to Company records	23
8.4	Financial Year.....	23
8.5	Audit.....	23
8.6	Common seal.....	23
8.7	Execution of documents	23
8.8	Alteration of Constitution.....	23
8.9	Notices	24
8.10	Officers: indemnities and insurance.....	24
8.11	Winding up.....	24

8.12	Liability of Members	24
8.13	Contribution of Members on winding up.....	24
9.	Interpretation	24
9.1	Exclusion of replaceable rules	24
9.2	Definitions.....	24
9.3	Interpretation	26
10.	Transitional provisions	Error! Bookmark not defined.
10.1	Members	Error! Bookmark not defined.
10.2	Directors	Error! Bookmark not defined.
	Schedule 1 - Appointment of Proxy.....	27
	Schedule 2 - Doctrinal Basis	28

Preamble

People affected by leprosy are amongst the most marginalised and disadvantaged people in their communities. The Company emphasises projects that have strong participatory community development practice, particularly in the relief of poverty and the building of skills in advocacy and capacity so as to benefit each community as a whole of which those affected by leprosy are a part. From its inception, the Company has cooperated with international partners that likewise assist people affected by leprosy, the disabled and the socially excluded.

The Leprosy Mission (Australia) (originally the Mission to Lepers) was an unincorporated association formed as a branch of an international charity now known as The Leprosy Mission International. The Leprosy Mission Overseas Relief Fund was established in 1983 and recognised by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia as gazetted on the 1st December 1983 and is the principal operating fund of the Company.

In October 1994 The Leprosy Mission (Australia) was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (**the Company**). Since the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission was established in December 2012, the Company has been a registered charity with a public benevolent institution subtype.

Consistent with its purpose, the Company has and may accept grants from government intended for government assisted aid such as sustainable development and has agreed not to apply those funds in a way that could be characterised as the propagation of religion or as welfare activities as defined by AusAID (or any successor thereof).

1. Name

The name of the Company is The Leprosy Mission Australia.

2. Purpose

2.1 Principal Purpose and powers

- (a) The Company is a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee which is established to be, and to continue as, a charity.
- (b) The Principal Purpose for which the Company is established is to provide benevolent relief to people in need, principally individuals and communities disadvantaged by leprosy. TLMA is motivated to do so in the name of Jesus Christ and by faith in Him.
- (c) Solely for the purpose of furthering the Principal Purpose, the Company:
 - (i) may do all things incidental or conducive to furthering the Principal Purpose; and
 - (ii) has the capacity and powers of a company under the Act subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

2.2 Application of income and property

- (a) The income and property of the Company must be applied solely towards the Principal Purpose.
- (b) No portion of the profits, income or property of the Company may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to Members or Directors by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise in their capacity as Members.
- (c) Sub-clause 2.2(b) does not stop the Company from doing the following things, provided they are done in good faith:
 - (i) paying a Member for goods or services they have provided or expenses they have properly incurred at fair and reasonable rates or rates more favourable to the Company, or
 - (ii) making a payment to a Member in carrying out the Company's charitable purpose(s).
- (d) The Company must not pay fees to a Director for acting as a Director.
- (e) The Company may:
 - (i) pay a Director for work they do for the Company, other than as a Director, if the amount is no more than a reasonable fee for the work done, or
 - (ii) reimburse a Director for expenses properly incurred by the Director in connection with the affairs of the Company;
- (f) Any payment made under sub-clause 2.2(e) must be approved by the Board.
- (g) The Company may pay premiums for insurance indemnifying Directors, as allowed for by law (including the Act) and this Constitution.

2.3 Distribution of assets on revocation of endorsement or winding up

- (a) If the Company is a Deductible Gift Recipient and is wound up, or in the event that the Company is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient and the endorsement is revoked by the Commissioner of Taxation, the following assets remaining after satisfying the Company's liabilities and expenses must be transferred to one or more entities that is charitable at law, has a purpose similar to the Principal Purpose and to which income tax deductible gifts may be made:
 - (i) gifts of money or property for the Principal Purpose received during any time that the

- (ii) Company is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient; contributions described in item 7 or 8 of the table in section 30-15 of the ITAA 97 in relation to a fund-raising event (as defined by section 995-1 of the ITAA 97) held for that purpose during any time that the Company is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient; and
 - (iii) money received by the Company because of such gifts or contributions during any time that the Company is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient.
- (b) Upon the winding up of the Company, any assets remaining after complying with sub-clause 2.3(a):
 - (i) must not be paid or distributed to the Members in their capacity as Members, and
 - (ii) will be given or transferred to one or more other funds, authorities, institutions or companies which:
 - (A) is charitable at law;
 - (B) has a similar purpose to the Principal Purpose; and
 - (C) prohibits the distribution of income, profit or assets to its Members in their capacity as Members.
- (c) The identity of any entity or entities that receive a distribution under this clause must be decided by the Members by ordinary resolution on or before the time of winding up or revocation. If the Members fail to decide, the entity or entities shall be determined by application to the Supreme Court in the State of incorporation.

3. Membership

3.1 Eligibility

- (a) Any natural person committed to the Principal Purpose of the Company may apply to be a Member, provided the person:
 - (i) is a resident of Australia;
 - (ii) is not an employee of the Company;
 - (iii) is a Christian committed to Jesus Christ as Lord;
 - (iv) subscribes to its Doctrinal Basis;
 - (v) desires to support its work; and
 - (vi) if the person is applying to be a State Representative, ordinarily resides in the relevant Region.
- (b) The minimum number of Members is one.
- (c) The maximum number of Members is 40, comprising:
 - (i) up to 18 State Representatives; and
 - (ii) up to 22 General Members.
- (d) The rights of any Member are not transferable.

3.2 Membership Classes

The Company will have the following Membership Classes:

- (a) State Representatives, comprising up to three State Representatives from each of the Regions; and
- (b) General Members.

3.3 Application

- (a) An application for Membership must be made in the form and manner (if any) approved by the Board.
- (b) An applicant must agree in writing to provide a guarantee of not less than the Guaranteed Amount to defray any liabilities and expenses of the Company upon its winding up or dissolution.
- (c) An individual may reapply for Membership on or prior to ceasing to be a Member.

3.4 Admission

- (a) At least 30 days prior to an Annual General Meeting, the Board must ascertain whether any Member positions will be or become vacant at the Annual General Meeting. If any positions will be or become vacant at the meeting, the Board:
 - (i) may issue an invitation to submit an application for State Representative membership to any person that;
 - (A) ordinarily resides within a Region that will have a vacant State Representative; and
 - (B) in the sole discretion of the Board, is considered to be likely to meet the criteria for membership in clause 3.1(a); and
 - (ii) may issue an invitation to submit an application for General Membership in respect of a vacant General Member position to any person who, in the sole discretion of the Board, is considered to be likely to meet the criteria for membership in clause 3.1(a).
- (b) The Board must consider and resolve whether to approve or reject each application for Membership within a reasonable time.
- (c) The Board may approve or reject any application for Membership in its discretion, using such criteria as the Board alone may determine. The Board is not bound to give reasons for approving or rejecting any application.
- (d) If the Board approves an application, the Board must put a resolution to admit the approved applicant to the Members at the next Annual General Meeting.
- (e) The Members must consider a resolution to admit an approved applicant to Membership in the following manner:
 - (i) the approved applicant must be endorsed by an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of Members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote.
 - (ii) if the approved applicant is endorsed:
 - (A) if the number of endorsed candidates is equal to or less than the number of available positions in the approved applicant's Membership Class and (if relevant) Region - the individual will be admitted as a Member;
 - (B) if the number of endorsed candidates is greater than the number of available positions in the approved applicant's Membership Class and (if relevant) Region - the Members may exercise a vote for that number of endorsed candidates within a Membership Class and (if relevant) Region as there are positions to be filled. Endorsed candidates will be ranked by the greatest number of votes cast in their favour and admitted as Members until all positions are filled.
- (f) Subject to clause 3.1(c), the Board shall have power at any time and from time to time to appoint a person to be a General Member to fill any casual vacancy in the General Membership class.
- (g) If an endorsed candidate is admitted as a Member or the Board admits a General Member to fill a casual vacancy, the Secretary must:
 - (i) enter the individual's details into the Register as soon as practicable; and

- (ii) send to the Member written notice of the acceptance.
- (h) A person is admitted as a Member of the Company when the person has been admitted pursuant to the process set out in sub-clause 3.4(e)(ii)(B) or 3.4(f) and the person's name is entered into the Register.
- (i) If the Board rejects an application, the Secretary must send to the applicant written notice of the rejection as soon as practicable.

3.5 Register

- (a) The Secretary must maintain the Register.
- (b) The Register must contain:
 - (i) the name, address, Membership Class, Region (if the Member is a State Representative) and date of admission to Membership – for each Member;
 - (ii) the name, date of admission to Membership and date on which a person ceased to be a Member – for each former Member.
- (c) The Secretary may keep the entries regarding former Members separately from the rest of the Register.
- (d) The address of a Member in the Register may serve as the address of the Member for the purpose of service of any notices to the Member.
- (e) The Company must give current Members access to the Register.
- (f) Information that is accessed from the Register must only be used in a manner relevant to the interests or rights of Members.

3.6 Expulsion and suspension of Members

- (a) The Board may suspend or expel a Member from the Company if it decides it is not in the interests of the Company for the person to continue or remain as a Member. The Board has absolute discretion.
- (b) The Board may not pass a resolution to suspend or expel a Member outside of a Board meeting.
- (c) If the Board intends to consider a resolution to suspend or expel a Member, it must give the Member written notice:
 - (i) stating the date, place and time of the meeting where the resolution will be considered;
 - (ii) setting out the intended resolution and the grounds on which it is based; and
 - (iii) informing the Member that he or she may attend the meeting and may give an oral or written explanation or submission before the resolution is put to the vote.

The notice must be given at least one week before the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered.

- (d) After considering any oral or written explanation or submission under sub-clause 3.6(c)(iii), the Board may resolve at a Board meeting to:
 - (i) take no further action;
 - (ii) warn the Member;
 - (iii) suspend the Member's rights as a Member for a period of no more than 12 months;
 - (iv) expel the Member;
 - (v) refer the decision to an unbiased, independent person on conditions that the Board consider appropriate (however, the person can only make a decision that the Board could have made under this clause); or
 - (vi) require the matter to be determined at a general meeting.
- (e) Any Member expelled from the Company may at any time apply to the Board to be readmitted as a Member.

- (f) No person may be a Director following expulsion or during suspension as a Member unless such a person is subsequently readmitted as a Member.

3.7 Cessation of Membership

- (a) Subject to sub-clauses 3.7(b) and 3.7(c):
 - (i) a State Representative ceases to be a Member at the conclusion of the third Annual General Meeting following their admission;
 - (ii) a General Member admitted pursuant to the process set out in sub-clause 3.4(e)(ii)(B) ceases to be a Member at the conclusion of the sixth Annual General Meeting following their admission; and
 - (iii) a General Member admitted to fill a casual vacancy pursuant to sub-clause 3.4(f) ceases to be a Member at the conclusion of the first Annual General Meeting following their admission.
- (b) A Member who is a Director at the conclusion of their Membership pursuant to sub-clause 3.7(a) may continue to be a Member until the earlier of:
 - (i) their term of office as a Director ending; or
 - (ii) ceasing to be a Member pursuant to sub-clause 3.7(c).
- (c) A person ceases to be a Member:
 - (i) on resignation by written notice to the Secretary;
 - (ii) on termination of the person's Membership in accordance with this Constitution;
 - (iii) on removal by Special Resolution of the Members;
 - (iv) if the Member is a State Representative, on ceasing to ordinarily reside in the relevant Region;
 - (v) on the Board deeming, in their sole discretion, the Member to be an untraceable Member because the person has not responded to correspondence sent to the contact details entered in the Register for that Member;
 - (vi) on death;
 - (vii) if the person is a Director, on removal by the Members under the Act or this Constitution;
 - (viii) if the person is a director of any company, on the person becoming ineligible to be a director by the Act or ACNC Legislation; and
 - (ix) on becoming bankrupt or insolvent or making an arrangement or composition with creditors of the person's joint or separate estate generally.
- (d) A Member whose Membership is terminated will be liable for all monies due by that Member to the Company in addition to any sum not exceeding the Guaranteed Amount for which the Member is liable under this Constitution.
- (e) There will be no liability for any loss or injury suffered by the Member as a result of any decision made in good faith under this clause.
- (f) Any person who for any reason ceases to be a Member must not represent themselves in any manner as being a Member.

3.8 Life members

- (a) The Board may recommend an individual to the Members for honorary Life membership who:
 - (i) has made a major contribution to the work of the Company over a length period; and
 - (ii) has a deep and abiding interest in the Company.
- (b) Life members will be selected in the discretion of the Board, but may include (without limitation):

- (i) a Member (including a National Council member under the previous Constitution) with a minimum of ten years' service;
 - (ii) an Australian overseas-based staff member who has served a minimum of three terms;
 - (iii) an Australian-based staff member who has served a minimum of fifteen years;
 - (iv) a supporter who has demonstrated generosity and commitment over a long period (unless the Board considers that another form of recognition is more appropriate); and
 - (v) any other individual whose contribution to the advancement of the Company has been outstanding.
- (c) The Board may seek and accept nominations from members for Life membership, but retains complete discretion regarding any recommendations to the Members.
 - (d) An individual recommended by the Board may be appointed as a Life member by ordinary resolution of the Members.
 - (e) A Life member is not a Member of the company and does not have Member's rights, including the right to vote at general meetings.
 - (f) A Life member is appointed in perpetuity, but may cease to be a Life member in the circumstances described in clause 3.7(c) (excluding sub- clause 3.7(c)(iv)).

4. Meetings and resolutions of members

4.1 Proceedings of Members

A meeting of the Members is a general meeting and may be referred to as a National Council.

4.2 Annual General Meeting

- (a) The Board may call and arrange to hold an annual National Council (referred to as an Annual General Meeting).
- (b) The business of an Annual General Meeting may include any of the following, even if not referred to on the notice of meeting:
 - (i) the consideration of the annual financial statements, Directors' declaration, Board's report and any auditor's report;
 - (ii) the appointment of Directors;
 - (iii) the appointment of any auditor; and
 - (iv) the fixing of any auditor's remuneration.

4.3 Convening a National Council

- (a) A National Council may only be called:
 - (i) by a Director; or
 - (ii) by a resolution of the Board.
- (b) If Members with at least 60% of the votes that may be cast at a National Council make a written request to the Company for a National Council to be held, the Board must:
 - (i) within 21 days of the Members' request, give all Members notice of a National Council; and
 - (ii) hold the National Council within 2 months of the Members' request.

4.4 Changes to National Council arrangements

- (a) The Board may change the venue for, postpone or cancel a National Council, subject to this clause.
- (b) If a National Council was not called by a resolution of the Board, then it may not be postponed or cancelled without the prior written consent of the persons who called or requisitioned the

- meeting.
- (c) If the venue of a National Council is changed, or if the National Council is cancelled or postponed under this clause:
- (i) notice of the change, cancellation or postponement must be given to all persons entitled to receive notices of a National Council under this Constitution;
 - (ii) a notice of postponement must specify the date, time and place to which the National Council has been postponed;
 - (iii) the provisions of the clause in this Constitution under clause 4.7 do not apply to a notice of postponement or change of venue; and
 - (iv) in the case of a National Council called under sub-clause 4.3(b), the National Council may not be postponed beyond the date by which meetings called under such provisions are required to be held.
- (d) The only business that may be transacted at a National Council which is postponed is the business specified in the notice convening the meeting.

4.5 Entitlement to receive notice

In the case of a National Council, notice must be given to every Member and every Director.

4.6 Notice of National Council

A notice of National Council must:

- (a) be in writing;
- (b) specify the place (unless the meeting is being held by virtual meeting technology only), the day and the time of the meeting;
- (c) if virtual meeting technology is to be used, provide sufficient information about the technology to allow the Members to participate by means of the technology;
- (d) state the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting;
- (e) if a Special Resolution is to be proposed at the meeting – set out the wording of the resolution and state that it is proposed as a Special Resolution;
- (f) include the information under clause 4.16;
- (g) include any form for the appointment of a Proxy which has been approved by the Board for the purpose; and
- (h) specify that notice of a proxy must be given to the Company at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting, by delivery to the Company at its registered address or at another address (including an electronic address) specified in the notice of the meeting.

4.7 Timing of notice

- (a) In the case of a National Council, at least 21 days' notice must be given unless:
- (i) in the case of an Annual General Meeting, all the Members entitled to attend and vote agree beforehand; and
 - (ii) in the case of any other National Council, if Members with at least 95 per cent of the votes that may be cast at the meeting agree beforehand.
- (b) A National Council cannot be called with fewer than 21 days' notice if it is of a kind where a resolution will be moved to remove a Director or auditor, notwithstanding the preceding sub-clause.

4.8 Chair of National Council

- (a) The Chair shall preside as chairperson at every National Council.
- (b) If there is no Chair or the Chair is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the National Council or the Chair is unwilling to act as chairperson for all or part of the meeting, the following, in order of precedence, may preside unless unable or unwilling

to do so:

- (i) a Deputy Chair (if any);
- (ii) a Director chosen by a majority of the Directors present;
- (iii) the only Director present; or
- (iv) a Member chosen by a majority of the Members present.

4.9 Role of chairperson of National Council

The chairperson of a National Council:

- (a) has charge of the general conduct of the meeting and of the procedures to be adopted at the meeting; and
- (b) must give the Members as a whole reasonable opportunity to make comments and ask questions.

4.10 Quorum for National Council

- (a) No business may be transacted at any National Council, other than the election of a chairperson or adjournment of a meeting, unless a quorum of Members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business.
- (b) A quorum of Members for a National Council is at least a third of the Members, including Members ordinarily residing in at least three Regions.
- (c) If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes from the time appointed for a National Council, then:
 - (i) in the case of a meeting called by, or at the request of Members, the meeting will dissolve;
 - (ii) in any other case:
 - (A) the meeting stands adjourned to such day, and at such time and place, as the Directors determine or, if no determination is made by the Directors, to the same day in the next week at the same time and place; and
 - (B) if at the resumption of the meeting a quorum is not present within 15 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, then the meeting will dissolve.
- (d) A person attending as a proxy is deemed to be a Member present for the purpose of determining quorum.
- (e) A Member that is suspended is not counted as a Member for the purpose of determining a quorum.

4.11 Adjournment of National Council

- (a) The chairperson of a National Council may at any time, and must if so directed by the Members, adjourn the meeting or any business, motion, or discussion being considered or remaining to be considered by the meeting.
- (b) Only unfinished business is to be transacted at a National Council resumed after an adjournment.
- (c) It is not necessary to give any notice of an adjournment, or of the business to be transacted at any adjourned meeting, unless a meeting is adjourned for one month or more.
- (d) A meeting adjourned under this clause stands adjourned to:
 - (i) such day, and at such time and place, as the Directors present decide; and
 - (ii) if no determination is made by the Directors, to the same day in the next week at the same time and place.

4.12 Method of Voting

- (a) At a National Council, voting will occur by show of hands or voices or such other method as the chairperson determines, unless a poll is demanded.
- (b) If virtual meeting technology is used, voting may take place by means of technology.
- (c) A poll can be demanded by a Member (including a Member that is suspended) at any time prior to a vote being taken, or immediately after the declaration of a result of a vote conducted by means other than a poll.
- (d) A demand for a poll may be withdrawn.
- (e) If a poll is duly demanded, it shall be taken in such a manner as the chairperson directs.
- (f) A poll demanded on the election of the chairperson of the meeting or on a question of adjournment of a meeting must be taken immediately.
- (g) A Member may vote in person or by proxy.

4.13 Voting rights

- (a) On a vote conducted at a National Council by poll, each Member has one vote.
- (b) On a vote conducted at a National Council by other means (including a show of hands), each person present who is a Member, or proxy for a Member has one vote. This means that (for example) a person present who is both a Member and holds a proxy for another Member will have only one vote.
- (c) In the case of a resolution passed without a meeting, in the manner provided under clause 4.17, each Member has one vote.
- (d) However, a Member that is suspended is not entitled to vote during the period of suspension.

4.14 Decisions of the Members

- (a) Questions arising for determination by the Members shall be decided by a majority of votes cast, unless otherwise provided in this Constitution.
- (b) If the votes cast on a motion are equal, the chairperson of the meeting will have a second or casting vote.
- (c) A declaration by the chairperson of the meeting that a resolution has been carried or lost, and an entry to that effect in the minutes is conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution – unless a poll is demanded.
- (d) An objection may be raised to the qualification of a voter only at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is given or tendered. Any such objection shall be referred to the chairperson of the meeting whose decision is final. A vote not disallowed pursuant to such an objection is valid for all purposes.

4.15 Seconding

It is not necessary for a motion to be seconded in order to be put to a vote.

4.16 Proxies

- (a) A Member may appoint a proxy to act on behalf of the Member at a National Council.
- (b) A proxy may exercise any and all of the rights of the Member who appointed it at a National Council, subject to the following:
 - (i) a proxy is subject to any directions or limitations specified in the proxy appointment; and
 - (ii) a proxy does not have the authority to speak and vote for a Member at a meeting while the Member is at the meeting.
- (c) A proxy does not need to be a Member of the Company.
- (d) The appointment of a proxy must be in writing and signed by the Member making the appointment and in a form as similar as possible to that in Schedule 1.
- (e) A vote given by proxy is valid even if the Member who appointed the proxy revokes the

appointment, or ceases to be a Member, provided that the chairperson was not aware of the revocation or cessation of Membership at the time the proxy cast the vote.

4.17 Use of virtual meeting technology in meetings

- (a) The Company may (but is not obliged to) hold a National Council:
 - (i) at any two or more locations using any virtual meeting technology; or
 - (ii) using virtual meeting technology only,

provided that the virtual meeting technology gives the Members as a whole a reasonable opportunity to participate, including a reasonable opportunity to exercise a right to speak.
- (b) A person participating through the use of virtual meeting technology will be deemed to be present at the meeting in person.
- (c) A person participating through the use of virtual meeting technology:
 - (i) must be given the opportunity to participate in a vote in real time; and
 - (ii) may, in the sole discretion of the Board, be given the opportunity to record a vote in advance of the meeting, in which case the voter may elect to vote in real time or in advance.
- (d) A document that is required or permitted to be tabled at a meeting using virtual meeting technology is taken to have been tabled if it is:
 - (i) given to the persons entitled to attend the meeting (whether physically or using virtual meeting technology) before the meeting; or
 - (ii) made accessible to the persons entitled to attend the meeting (whether physically or using virtual meeting technology) during the meeting.

4.18 Resolutions without meetings

- (a) This clause does not apply to a Special Resolution, a resolution to remove a Director from office, or a resolution by the Members to appoint or remove an auditor.
- (b) A resolution may be passed without a meeting in the following circumstances if:
 - (i) notice has been given of the resolution to all of the Members entitled to vote;
 - (ii) notice has been given to any auditor; and
 - (iii) a majority of the Members entitled to vote give their approval in writing.
- (c) For the purpose of this clause:
 - (i) the notice must include the wording of the resolution;
 - (ii) approval in writing includes approval given by email and any other means of electronic communication; and
 - (iii) a resolution will be deemed to have passed if after a minimum of 48 hours after notice was given it achieves the requisite majority.
- (d) The resolution is passed at the time when approval is given to the Secretary of the last person necessary to constitute a majority.

5. Directors

5.1 Number of Directors

- (a) The minimum number of Directors is three.

- (b) Subject to sub-clause 5.1(c), the maximum number of Directors is twelve.
- (c) The Members may vary the maximum number of Directors by ordinary resolution.

5.2 Eligibility

- (a) Any natural person committed to the Principal Purpose is eligible to be appointed or elected as a Director provided:
 - (i) the person is a Member;
 - (ii) the person has given written, signed consent to act as a Director;
 - (iii) the person has suitable qualifications, skills and experience to discharge the functions of a Director, as determined by the Board from time to time; and
 - (iv) the person is not disqualified by:
 - (A) the Act; or
 - (B) the ACNC Legislation;
 from being a Director, to the extent that either applies.
- (b) Sub-clause 5.2(a)(iv)(B) will not apply to disqualify a person if an exemption is obtained from the ACNC Commissioner.

5.3 Appointment of Directors

- (a) The Members may elect a person to be a Director of the Company as follows:
 - (i) if the number of nominees is equal to or less than the number of available positions on the Board - by a majority vote of at least two-thirds of Members present and entitled to vote;
 - (ii) if the number of nominees is greater than the number of available positions on the Board - the Members may exercise a vote for that number of nominees as there are positions to be filled. Nominees will be ranked by the greatest number of votes cast in their favour and elected as Directors until all positions are filled.
- (b) The Board shall have power at any time and from time to time to appoint a new Director to fill any casual vacancy or to increase the total number of Directors to twelve.

5.4 Term of office

- (a) The term of office of a Director appointed by a resolution of the Members:
 - (i) is the period specified in the resolution, and if there is no period specified then a term of three years;
 - (ii) commences on the date of appointment; and
 - (iii) expires at the end of the period specified in the resolution or if there is no period specified then at the conclusion of the third Annual General Meeting following the appointment.
- (b) The term of office of a Director appointed by the Board to fill a casual vacancy pursuant to sub-clause 5.6(b)(iii):
 - (i) commences on the date of appointment; and
 - (ii) expires at the conclusion of the first Annual General Meeting following the appointment.
- (c) A person may be appointed as a Director for more than one term of office, subject to a maximum consecutive tenure of nine years, unless the Members pass a Special Resolution

to permit the re-appointment of a Director beyond that period.

5.5 Casual vacancy in directorship

A casual vacancy is created in the office of a Director if the Director:

- (a) resigns;
- (b) dies;
- (c) ceases to be a Member;
- (d) is removed by the Members under the Act;
- (e) is absent without the consent of the Board and without leave of absence, from Board meetings for a period of six months;
- (f) becomes subject to a Court order to receive treatment or have his or her finances managed by another person due to the Director being of unsound mind or having a mental illness; or
- (g) becomes ineligible to be a Director by the ACNC Legislation (unless the Board unanimously resolves to seek an exemption from the ACNC Commissioner and obtains that exemption) or the Act.

5.6 Effect of casual vacancy

- (a) In the event of a casual vacancy in the office of a Director, the remaining Directors may act, subject to this clause.
- (b) If the number of Directors in office at any time is not sufficient to constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Directors, or is less than the minimum number of Directors fixed under this Constitution, the remaining Directors must act as soon as possible to:
 - (i) increase the number of Directors to a number sufficient to constitute a quorum and to satisfy the minimum number of Directors required under this Constitution;
 - (ii) convene a National Council of the Company for that purpose; or
 - (iii) appoint additional Directors.
- (c) Until the remaining Directors have acted in accordance with the preceding sub-clause, the Board may only act if and to the extent that there is an emergency requiring them to act.

5.7 Defects in appointment of Directors

Each resolution passed or thing done by, or with the participation of, a person acting as a Director or Member of a committee is valid even if it is later discovered that:

- (a) there was a defect in the appointment of the person; or
- (b) the person was disqualified from continuing in office, voting on the resolution or doing the thing.

5.8 Chair and Office Bearers

- (a) From time to time as required, the Board must appoint the Chair from among the Board and determine the period for which such Chair is to hold office.
- (b) Any other Office Bearer of the Company (including the Deputy Chair) other than the Chair (including the Deputy Chair) must be elected by the Board from among the Board for an annual term of office immediately following the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) The description, number and duties of the Office Bearers may be determined by the Board from time to time.
- (d) The Board may remove or suspend a person from holding any of the above offices by resolution passed at a Board meeting provided:
 - (i) the resolution is passed by not less than two-thirds of the Directors present; and
 - (ii) at least 21 days' notice in writing of the resolution has been given to the Secretary and to the person that is the subject of the resolution.

- (e) The Board may appoint an Office Bearer to fill a casual vacancy arising at any time.

5.9 Chief executive officer

- (a) The Board may appoint a chief executive officer designated by whatever title the Board thinks fit.
- (b) The appointment may be for the period, at the remuneration and on the conditions that the Board thinks fit.
- (c) The chief executive officer is entitled to attend and speak at all meetings of the Board, but is not a Director and is not entitled to vote.
- (d) The Board may remove the chief executive officer at any time, with or without cause, subject to any contract between the Company and the chief executive officer.

5.10 Secretary

- (a) There must be at least one Secretary.
- (b) The Secretary may be (but is not required to be) the chief executive officer.
- (c) The Secretary is to be appointed by the Board on such terms and conditions as the Board thinks fit.
- (d) A person must not be appointed Secretary unless the person has given the Company a signed consent to act as Secretary.
- (e) The Board may suspend or remove a Secretary.
- (f) An act done by a person acting as a Secretary is not invalidated by reason only of:
 - (i) a defect in the person's appointment as a secretary; or
 - (ii) the person being disqualified to be a secretary,
 if that circumstance was not known by the person when the act was done.
- (g) The Secretary must identify whether a person is ineligible to be appointed as a Director under this Constitution as a result of disqualification by the Act or the ACNC Legislation. The Secretary must:
 - (i) perform a search of the publicly available registers as soon as practicable after becoming aware that a person has been, or may be, appointed as a Director; and
 - (ii) must obtain a declaration from each Director to the effect that he or she is not disqualified by the Act or the ACNC Legislation, and that he or she will notify the Secretary as soon as possible in the event that he or she becomes disqualified.

6. Proceedings of the board

6.1 Powers of the Board

- (a) The Board is responsible for the management of the business of the Company and may exercise all the powers of the Company (in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution) that are not, by the Act or by this Constitution, required to be exercised by the Members.
- (b) The Board may (without limiting the previous sub-clause):
 - (i) borrow money;
 - (ii) charge any property or business of the Company;
 - (iii) issue debentures or give any other security for a debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any other person; and
 - (iv) decide how negotiable instruments must be signed, drawn, accepted, endorsed or otherwise executed (as applicable) by or on behalf of the Company.
- (c) The Board cannot remove a Director or auditor.

6.2 By-laws

- (a) The Board has power to make regulations or by-laws for the general conduct and management of the Company and the business of the Board.
- (b) The Board may revoke and alter such by-laws or regulations as it sees fit.

6.3 Appointment of attorney

- (a) The Board may, by power of attorney, appoint any person or persons (either by name or by reference to position or office held) to be the attorney or attorneys of the Company for such purposes, with such powers, authorities and discretions (being powers, authorities and discretions vested in or exercisable by the Board), for such period and subject to such conditions as it thinks fit.
- (b) Any such power of attorney may contain such provisions for the protection and convenience of persons dealing with the attorney as the Board thinks fit and may also authorise the attorney to delegate all or any of the powers, authorities and discretions vested in him or her.

6.4 Meetings of the Board

The Board may meet together for the dispatch of business and adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it thinks fit.

6.5 Convening Board meetings

The Board may at any time, and a Secretary must on the requisition of any three Directors, convene a Board meeting.

6.6 Entitlement to receive notice of Board meetings

In the case of a Board meeting, notice must be given to each Director entitled to vote at the meeting. A Director may waive the requirement to receive notice of a Board meeting.

6.7 Content of notice of Board meetings

A notice of a Board meeting:

- (a) must specify the place, the day and the time of the meeting; and
- (b) must, if virtual meeting technology is to be used, provide sufficient information about the technology to allow the Directors to participate by means of the technology; but
- (c) does not need to specify the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

6.8 Timing of notice of Board meetings

- (a) Subject to sub-clause 6.8(b), at least 48 hours' written notice must be given of Board meetings to all Directors.
- (b) The Board may unanimously waive the requirement to give 48 hours' notice of Board meetings.

6.9 Chair of Board meetings

- (a) The Chair shall preside as chairperson at every Board meeting.
- (b) Where a meeting of the Board is held and the Chair is not present within 10 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the Board meeting or is unwilling to act as chair for all or part of the meeting then:
 - (i) if there is a Deputy Chair, the Deputy Chair will be the chairperson of the Board meeting; and
 - (ii) if there is not a Deputy Chair present, willing and able to be the chairperson during all

or part of the meeting, the Directors present may elect a Director to be chairperson of such meeting or part of it.

6.10 Quorum for Board meetings

- (a) No business may be transacted at any Board meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (b) A quorum consists of a majority of the total number of Directors.
- (c) A Director on a leave of absence approved by the Directors should not be included when calculating the total number of Directors for the purposes of this clause.

6.11 Voting at Board meetings

- (a) A Board meeting at which a quorum is present may exercise all the powers and discretions vested in or exercisable by the Board under this Constitution.
- (b) A question arising at a Board meeting is to be decided by a majority of votes of Directors present and entitled to vote, unless otherwise provided in this Constitution. Such a decision is for all purposes a decision of the Board.
- (c) If the votes cast on a motion are equal, the chairperson of the meeting will have a second or casting vote.

6.12 Establishment of committees

- (a) The Board may establish one or more committees comprised of such persons as it thinks fit for such purposes as it sees fit. A committee may include, or be comprised of, non-Directors.
- (b) The meetings and proceedings of committees are:
 - (i) subject to any directions of the Board; and
 - (ii) otherwise governed by the provisions of this Constitution which regulate the proceedings of the Board, to the greatest extent practical.

6.13 Delegation of powers

- (a) The Board may delegate any of its powers to one or more Directors, a committee, an employee or any other person.
- (b) A delegation must be recorded in the Company's minute book.
- (c) The Board may revoke a delegation.
- (d) The Board may specify terms (including the power to further delegate).

6.14 Use of virtual meeting technology in Board meetings

- (a) The Board may hold their meetings using any virtual meeting technology that is agreed to by the Board.
- (b) The use of any virtual meeting technology must give the Director a reasonable opportunity to participate including a reasonable opportunity to exercise a right to speak.
- (c) The Board's agreement may be a standing one.
- (d) A Director may only withdraw his or her consent to use virtual meeting technology within a reasonable period before the meeting.
- (e) A Director participating through the use of virtual meeting technology will be deemed to be present at the meeting in person.

6.15 Resolutions without meetings

- (a) A resolution of the Board may be passed without a meeting if all of the Directors entitled to vote on the resolution sign a notice stating that they are in favour of the resolution.
- (b) The resolution is passed at the time when the last Director signs.
- (c) For the purpose of this clause:

- (i) the notice must include the wording of the resolution;
- (ii) the notice may be distributed by any means, including electronic communication;
- (iii) separate copies of the notice may be signed; and
- (iv) a resolution will be deemed to have failed to have been passed if it has not achieved unanimous consent within 48 hours after the notice was given.

7. Directors' duties and interests

7.1 Duties of Directors

Directors must comply with any duties imposed on them by the Act, which may include duties under the Act and the ACNC Legislation.

7.2 Disclosure of interests

- (a) A Director must disclose any perceived or actual material conflict of interest to the other Directors.
- (b) A Director must disclose any material personal interests in the manner and to the extent required by the Act.

7.3 Participation in decisions

- (a) A Director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered by the Board:
 - (i) must not be present while the matter is being considered at a Board meeting; or
 - (ii) vote on the matter,
 unless permitted by the following sub-clause.
- (b) A Director may be present or vote if:
 - (i) the interest arises because the Director is a Member of the Company, and the interest is held in common with other Members of the Company;
 - (ii) the interest relates to a contract the Company is proposing to enter into that:
 - (A) is subject to approval by the Members; and
 - (B) will not impose any obligation on the Company if it is not approved by the Members;
 - (iii) the interest arises merely because the Director is a guarantor or has given an indemnity or security for all or part of a loan (or proposed loan) to the Company;
 - (iv) the interest arises merely because the Director has a right of subrogation in relation to a guarantee or indemnity referred to in sub-clause 7.3(b)(iii);
 - (v) the interest relates to an insurance contract that insures, or would insure, the Director against liabilities that the Director incurs as an officer of the Company (but only if the contract does not make the Company or a Related Body Corporate the insurer);
 - (vi) the interest relates to any payment by the Company or a related body corporate in respect of an indemnity permitted under section 199A of the Act or any contract relating to such an indemnity;
 - (vii) the interest is in a contract, or proposed contract, with, or for the benefit of, or on behalf of, a Related Body Corporate and arises merely because the Director is a director of the Related Body Corporate;
 - (viii) the Australian Securities and Investments Commission makes an order allowing the Director to vote on the matter; or
 - (ix) the Directors who do not have a material personal interest in the matter pass a resolution that:

- (A) identifies the Director, the nature and extent of the Director's interest in the matter and how it relates to the affairs of the Company, and
- (B) states that those Directors are satisfied that the interest should not stop the Director from voting or being present.

7.4 Directors' interests

A Director may:

- (a) hold any other position in the Company, except that of auditor, unless being or becoming a Director would breach any law by reason of holding that office;
- (b) hold any office or place of profit in any other entity promoted by the Company or in which it has an interest of any kind;
- (c) enter into a contract or arrangement with the Company;
- (d) participate in any association, institution, fund, trust or scheme for past or present employees or Directors of the Company or persons dependent on or connected with them;
- (e) act in a professional capacity (or be a Member of a firm which acts in a professional capacity) for the Company, except as auditor;
- (f) sign or participate in the execution of a document by or on behalf of the Company; and
- (g) do any of the above despite the fiduciary relationship of the Director's office:
 - (i) without any liability to account to the Company for any direct or indirect benefit accruing to the Director; and
 - (ii) without affecting the validity of any contract or arrangement,

provided the Director complies with clauses 7.2 and 7.3.

8. Administration

8.1 Minutes

- (a) The Board shall cause minutes of:
 - (i) all proceedings and resolutions of meetings of Members;
 - (ii) all proceedings and resolutions of meetings of the Board, including meetings of a committee established by the Board;
 - (iii) resolutions passed by Members without a meeting; and
 - (iv) resolutions passed by the Board without a meeting,
 to be recorded and kept with the Company's records as soon as practicable for that purpose, within one month after the meeting or passing of the resolution.
- (b) The Company must ensure that:
 - (i) minutes of a meeting are signed within a reasonable time after the meeting by one of the following:
 - (A) the chairperson of the meeting; or
 - (B) the chairperson of the next meeting; and
 - (ii) minutes of the passing of a resolution without a meeting are signed by a Director within a reasonable time after the resolution is passed.
- (c) A minute recorded and signed as required by this clause is evidence of the proceeding, resolution or declaration to which it relates, unless the contrary is proved.
- (d) The Company must keep its minute books at its registered office or its principal place of business in Australia.

8.2 Accounts and other records of the Company

- (a) The Company must make and keep financial records that:
 - (i) correctly record and explain its transactions and financial position and performance;
 - (ii) enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared and to be audited; and
 - (iii) are prepared in accordance with ACNC requirements.
- (b) The accounts will be held at the registered office or any other place as the Board thinks fit.
- (c) A Director has a right of access to the financial records at all reasonable times.
- (d) The Company must retain its financial records for at least seven years.
- (e) The Board must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Company's records are kept safe.

8.3 Members' access to Company records

To allow Members to inspect the Company's records:

- (a) the Company must give a Member access to the records set out in clauses 4.6, 8.1(a)(i), 8.1(a)(iii), and any other notices or statements distributed to Members; and
- (b) the Board may authorise a Member to inspect other records of the Company, including records to which clauses 8.1(a)(ii), 8.1(a)(iv) and 8.2 refer.

8.4 Financial Year

The financial year will begin on the first day of July and end on the thirtieth day of June, unless the Board passes a resolution to change the Financial Year.

8.5 Audit

- (a) If required by law, the Company must appoint and remunerate an auditor.
- (b) Any auditor is entitled to attend any National Council and to be heard by the Members on any part of the business of the meeting that concerns the auditor in their capacity as auditor.
- (c) The Company must give any auditor all communications relating to the National Council that a Member of the Company is entitled to receive.

8.6 Common seal

The Company does not have a common seal.

8.7 Execution of documents

- (a) The Company may execute a document by the signature of:
 - (i) two Directors;
 - (ii) one Director and one Secretary; or
 - (iii) one Director and another person appointed by the Board for that purpose.
- (b) Documents may be signed by electronic means in accordance with the Act.

8.8 Alteration of Constitution

- (a) The Company may only alter this Constitution by Special Resolution in accordance with the Act.
- (b) The Members must not pass a Special Resolution that amends this Constitution if passing it causes the Company to no longer be a charity.

8.9 Notices

- (a) Notices can be served on Members (subject to any election or request received from a Member in accordance with the Act) or the Board by post, electronic mail, or such other means as may be generally accepted in business from time to time.
- (b) Notices to the Company may be given personally, by post, email or other electronic means.
- (c) Notices directed to the last known address (including any virtual or electronic address) of a Member or Director are to be treated as duly served in such time as it would usually take for such notice to be delivered.
- (d) The non-receipt of notice of a National Council or Board meeting, including notice of postponement or change of venue, does not invalidate anything done or any resolution passed at the meeting if the non-receipt of notice occurred by accident or inadvertent error.
- (e) A person who attends a National Council or Board meeting waives any objection that person may have to non-receipt of notice of the meeting.
- (f) In calculating a period of notice to be given under this Constitution, both the days on which the notice is given or taken to be given and the day of the meeting convened by it are to be disregarded.

8.10 Officers: indemnities and insurance

- (a) The Company indemnifies every person who is or has been an Officer of the Company, or of a wholly-owned subsidiary, against any liability (including without limitation liability for legal costs) incurred as a result of their position as Officer (other than to the Company or a Related Body Corporate) to the full extent permitted by law.
- (b) The Company may pay, or agree to pay, a premium in respect of a contract insuring its Officers, to the extent permitted by law.

8.11 Winding up

Subject to clause 2.3, the Company may be dissolved by a Special Resolution of Members.

8.12 Liability of Members

The liability of the Members is limited to the Guaranteed Amount, being \$10.

8.13 Contribution of Members on winding up

Every Member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of the Company being wound up while he or she is a Member, or within one year of ceasing to be a Member such amount as may be required not exceeding the Guaranteed Amount, for:

- (a) the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted whilst the Member or past Member as the case may be was a Member; and
- (b) the costs, charges, and expenses of winding up.

9. Interpretation

9.1 Exclusion of replaceable rules

The replaceable rules contained in the Act do not apply to the Company.

9.2 Definitions

In this Constitution:

"ACNC" means the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

"ACNC Legislation" means the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (Consequential and Transitional) Act 2012*.

"Act" means the *Corporations Act 2001*.

“Annual General Meeting” means a National Council held once in every calendar year at such time and place as may be determined by the Board, for the purposes of carrying out the business of the Company described in sub-clause 4.2(b) or such of it as is thought necessary by the Board.

“auditor” may mean a reviewer, if permitted by the Act or ACNC Legislation.

“Board” means the board of Directors for the time being of the Company.

“Company” means The Leprosy Mission Australia.

“Deductible Gift Recipient” means an entity to which tax deductible gifts may be made pursuant to Division 30 of the ITAA 97.

“Directors” means the Directors for the time being of the Company and **“Director”** has a corresponding meaning.

“Doctrinal Basis” means the doctrinal basis of the Company set out in Schedule 2.

“chairperson” means the person chairing a meeting.

“Chair” means the person appointed to the position of Chair of the Company under the clause 5.8(a).

“charity at law” means charitable within the meaning of the *Charities Act 2013* (Cth), and **“charitable at law”** has the same meaning.

“General Member” means a Member whose name is entered in the Register as a General Member in accordance with clause 3.5.

“Guaranteed Amount” means the amount set out in clause 8.12.

“ITAA 97” means the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth).

“Member” means a person whose name is entered in the Register as a Member of the Company in accordance with clause 3.5 (including both General Members and State Representatives) and **“Membership”** has the corresponding meaning.

“National Council” means the decision-making body constituted by a general meeting of the Members.

“Principal Purpose” means the purpose set out in clause 2.1.

“Office Bearer” means a Director appointed to any office by the Board pursuant to clause 5.8.

“Officer” has the meaning given under the Act.

“person” includes a natural person and a body corporate and a corporation within the meaning of s 57 of the Act.

“poll” means a method of voting where votes are cast in writing. It includes (but is not limited to) a vote conducted by secret ballot.

“Region” means:

- (a) New South Wales (incorporating the Australian Capital Territory);
- (b) Queensland;
- (c) South Australia (incorporating the Northern Territory);
- (d) Tasmania;
- (e) Victoria; and
- (f) Western Australia.

“Register” means the register of Members of the Company under the Act.

“Related Body Corporate” means a body corporate that is a subsidiary of the Company.

“Secretary” means the secretary for the time being of the Company and if there are joint secretaries, any one or more of such joint secretaries.

“sign” means a mark or signature (electronic or otherwise) made by a person on a document to signify knowledge, approval, acceptance, or obligation.

“Special Resolution” means a resolution passed at a general meeting:

- (a) of which notice has been given in accordance with sub-clause 4.6(d); and

- (b) that has been passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by Members entitled to vote on the resolution.

“State Representative” means a Member whose name is entered in the Register as a State Representative in accordance with clause 3.5.

9.3 Interpretation

In this Constitution:

- (a) If an expression in the Constitution has a meaning in the Act, the meaning from the Act shall apply to the expression - except where a contrary intention appears in this Constitution.
- (b) Words importing any one gender are deemed and taken to include all genders and the singular to include the plural and the plural the singular unless the contrary as to gender or number is expressly provided.
- (c) A reference to any legislation or to any provision of any legislation includes any modification or re-enactment of it, any legislative provision substituted for it, and all regulations and statutory instruments issued under it.

Schedule 1 - Appointment of Proxy

Votes may be given personally or by proxy and every proxy shall be appointed in writing under the hand of the appointor in the form or to the effect of the following:

The Leprosy Mission Australia:

I _____ of _____ [Insert address] a Member of The Leprosy Mission Australia, hereby appoint _____ to vote on all matters on my behalf at the:

Annual General Meeting of The Leprosy Mission Australia to be held on theday of.....2022 and at any adjournment.

OR

The Special General Meeting of The Leprosy Mission Australia to be held on theday of.....2022 and at any adjournment.

Optional: This form is to be used as follows for the resolutions listed below:

in favour of / against	detail of proposed resolution

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2022

Witness.....(Signature)

Appointor.....(Signature)

Schedule 2 - Doctrinal Basis

The Doctrinal Basis of the Company is:

1. A wholehearted acceptance of the revelation of God given in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
2. A confession of the faith therein set forth and summarised in such historic statements of the Christian Church as the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. In particular, the assertion of the doctrines; summarily stated as follows:
 - (a) One God, eternally existent in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
 - (b) The Deity and perfect humanity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to heaven, His mediatorial work, intercession, and reign, and His personal return in power and glory as judge of all mankind.
 - (c) The universal sinfulness of human nature, in consequence of the Fall, making humankind subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
 - (d) Redemption from the guilt and power of sin through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ as our representative and substitute and the justification of the sinner by grace through faith alone.
 - (e) The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration of the sinner and sanctification of the believer.
 - (f) The unity in the Holy Spirit of all true believers in the Church which is the Body of Christ.
3. The divine inspiration of all Holy Scripture, its trustworthiness and its supreme authority and sufficiency in all matters of faith and conduct.