



# Constitution of Health Equity Matters Limited

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## 1 Name of Corporation

The name of the company is **Health Equity Matters Limited (Health Equity Matters)**.

## 2 Status of the Constitution

### 2.1 Constitution of Health Equity Matters

This is the constitution of Health Equity Matters.

### 2.2 Replaceable Rules

This Constitution displaces the Replaceable Rules, accordingly, none of the Replaceable Rules apply.

## 3 Interpretation

### 3.1 Definitions

In this Constitution these terms have the following meanings:

<b>ACNC Act</b>	<i>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth).</i>
<b>Affiliate Member</b>	Any entity that is admitted as an 'Affiliate Member' pursuant to <b>clause 8</b> .
<b>Auditor</b>	The person appointed for the time being as the auditor of Health Equity Matters.
<b>Board</b>	The Directors present at a meeting, duly convened as a Board meeting, at which a quorum is present.
<b>Business Day</b>	A day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or bank or a public holiday in the place concerned.
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Any person appointed for the time being as the chief executive officer of Health Equity Matters.
<b>Constitution</b>	The constitution for the time being of Health Equity Matters as constituted by this document and any resolutions of Health Equity Matters modifying this document.
<b>Co-opted Director</b>	A person nominated by the Board that has a special interest or knowledge relevant to Health Equity Matters.
<b>Corporations Act</b>	<i>Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).</i>
<b>Director</b>	A person who is a director for the time being of Health Equity Matters (including a Co-opted Director) and <b>Directors</b> means more than one Director.

<b>Health Equity Matters</b>	Health Equity Matters Limited.
<b>Member</b>	An entity that is registered on the Register of Members.
<b>Member's Guarantee Amount</b>	An amount equal to <b>\$10</b> .
<b>Membership</b>	Being a Member of Health Equity Matters.
<b>Membership Year</b>	Begins on 1 July in one year and ends on 30 June in the following year.
<b>Nominating Member</b>	Each Member listed in <b>clause 18.1(b)(i) to (iv)</b> inclusive.
<b>Objects</b>	The objects of Health Equity Matters set out in <b>clause 4.2</b> .
<b>President</b>	The person appointed as president under <b>clause 22.7(a)</b> .
<b>Public Officer</b>	The person appointed as public officer in accordance with the Tax Act.
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of Health Equity Matters set out in <b>clause 4.1</b> .
<b>Register of Members</b>	The register of Members maintained pursuant to the Corporations Act.
<b>Replaceable Rules</b>	The replaceable rules applicable to a public company limited by guarantee set out in the Corporations Act.
<b>Secretary</b>	Any person appointed for the time being as, or to perform the functions of, secretary of Health Equity Matters.
<b>Tax Act</b>	The <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i> (Cth) and the <i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i> (Cth) as appropriate.
<b>Vice President</b>	The person appointed as vice president under <b>clause 22.7(a)</b> .

## 3.2 Interpretation

In this Constitution:

- (a) the words 'including', 'include' and 'includes' are to be construed without limitation;
- (b) a reference to legislation is to be construed as a reference to that legislation, any subordinate legislation under it, and that legislation and subordinate legislation as amended, re-enacted or replaced for the time being;
- (c) headings are used for convenience only and are not intended to affect the interpretation of this Constitution;

- (d) a word or expression defined in the Corporations Act and used, but not defined, in this Constitution has the same meaning given to it in the Corporations Act; and
- (e) a word or expression defined in the ACNC Act and used, but not defined, in this Constitution has the same meaning given to it in the ACNC Act.

## 4 Purpose and Objects

### 4.1 Purpose

The purpose of Health Equity Matters is to pursue charitable purposes only and to apply the income and property of Health Equity Matters whensoever derived only to promote the objects in **clause 4.2**.

### 4.2 Objects

- (a) Health Equity Matters is the federation of Australia's leading HIV and LGBTIQ+ health organisations.
- (b) Health Equity Matters' objects and strengths are derived from its Members and their communities and, accordingly, Health Equity Matters will provide leadership, be guided by, promote, coordinate and support the shared goals of its Members and the communities they represent in all of its endeavours.

Health Equity Matters recognises the primacy of its national Members to work with and represent their communities.

Health Equity Matters will represent the interests of its Members in a way that reflects a meaningful and ongoing consultative partnership.

- (c) Without limiting **clause 4.1**, the objects for which Health Equity Matters is established are to:
  - (i) end the transmission of HIV;
  - (ii) maximise the health and wellbeing of Health Equity Matters' communities;
  - (iii) oppose discrimination and violence and reduce stigma associated with HIV;
  - (iv) foster and advocate for strengthened community responses to HIV in Australia, Asia and the Pacific;
  - (v) contribute to the global effort to end HIV and AIDS and respond to issues affecting the Members and communities abroad;
  - (vi) recognise and respond to issues that intersect with HIV and that hinder the achievement of these objects, including sexually transmissible infections, drug and alcohol issues, viral hepatitis, and mental health;
  - (vii) promote sexual health and the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health rights for all regardless of HIV status;



- (viii) adopt a social view of health that recognises the social, economic and structural determinants of good health and that responds to these directly and through the promotion of human rights, social justice and equity of access;
- (ix) advocate for, be informed by and remain embedded within communities living with and affected by HIV and the Members who represent them;
- (x) encourage, facilitate and maximise the participation of people with HIV in all activities of Health Equity Matters, whether as office bearers, delegates, representatives, employees, or in any other capacity; and
- (xi) foster and promote the interests of Health Equity Matters' communities in Australia and overseas.

### **4.3 Activities**

- (a) Health Equity Matters is to pursue the Objects through activities including, without limitation:
  - (i) leading national conversations on these issues and contributing to regional and global dialogue;
  - (ii) building political support through non-partisan engagement;
  - (iii) educating decision-makers and the public;
  - (iv) supporting community engagement and participation in national, regional and international advocacy with decision-makers and stakeholders;
  - (v) providing a public voice for these issues in the media and community;
  - (vi) coordinating issues and responses across the Members, Affiliate Members and other organisations;
  - (vii) bringing together community representatives to share, plan and respond to issues;
  - (viii) developing and implementing programs and responding to gaps;
  - (ix) promoting discussion among the Members and Affiliate Members on policy issues;
  - (x) formulating and documenting policy positions and supporting their implementation;
  - (xi) developing tools, materials and strategic information to support community advocacy and knowledge sharing;
  - (xii) influencing the planning and reporting of research and supporting its translation;

- (xiii) strengthening the enabling environment including through systemic advocacy for the elimination of laws that impede the response and the promotion of enablers;
  - (xiv) developing workforce capability and sector capacity and supporting the Members and Affiliate Members;
  - (xv) promoting the success of Health Equity Matters and its Members and Affiliate Members and building awareness of successful community-based responses in Australia, regionally and internationally; and
  - (xvi) fostering financial security and sustainability in the community-based responses of Health Equity Matters and its Members, Affiliate Members and partners.
- (b) Health Equity Matters may do other lawful things incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Objects or the exercise of any of the powers specified in **clause 4**.

#### **4.4 Limitation of Powers**

Health Equity Matters is prohibited from making distributions to Members and Directors.

#### **4.5 Non-profit**

The assets and income of Health Equity Matters must be applied solely in furtherance of the Objects, and to this end Health Equity Matters may:

- (a) apply any part of the income or capital of Health Equity Matters; and
- (b) accumulate any part of the income or capital of Health Equity Matters,

insofar as it is consistent with the Objects and Health Equity Matters' endorsement for concessions under the Tax Act (if any).

## **5 Modification or repeal of Constitution**

### **5.1 Modifying or repealing Constitution**

This Constitution may be modified or repealed only by a special resolution of Health Equity Matters in a general meeting.

### **5.2 Date of effect of modification or repeal**

Any modification or repeal of this Constitution takes effect on the date the special resolution is passed or any later date specified, or provided for, in the resolution.

### **5.3 Non prejudicial**

- (a) Health Equity Matters cannot modify the Constitution if it will impose a new or greater liability on or otherwise unfairly prejudice any Member, except with the consent of the relevant Member or Members.

- (b) Nothing in this **clause 5.3** prevents Health Equity Matters modifying the Constitution to comply with law, provided that the approvals in **clause 5.3(a)** are obtained.

## **6 Member's liability**

### **6.1 Liability to contribute**

Subject to this Constitution, each entity that is a Member, and each entity that was a Member during the year ending on the day of the commencement of the winding up of Health Equity Matters, undertakes to contribute to the property of Health Equity Matters for:

- (a) payment of debts and liabilities of Health Equity Matters;
- (b) payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- (c) any adjustment of the rights of the contributories among Members.

### **6.2 Limited liability**

The amount that each Member or past Member is liable to contribute is limited to the amount of the Member's Guarantee Amount.

## **7 Members**

### **7.1 Membership**

- (a) Health Equity Matters must have at least one Member.
- (b) An entity is eligible to apply to become a Member if that entity:
  - (i) agrees in writing to assume the liability to pay the Member's Guarantee Amount;
  - (ii) agrees in writing to observe the Constitution and to affirm and promote the Objects and Purpose of Health Equity Matters; and
  - (iii) meets the criteria for admittance as a Member set out in the policy (if any) as determined by the Board and ratified by the Members from time to time or the application for Membership is ratified by the Members.
- (c) If Health Equity Matters, by special resolution passed at a general meeting, accepts an application for Membership, as soon as practicable, the Board must register the name of the entity in the Register of Members.
- (d) Subject to the Corporations Act, an entity becomes a Member on the registration of that entity's name in the Register of Members.

### **7.2 Annual fees**

- (a) Health Equity Matters may in general meeting determine the amount of annual Membership fees for the Members.

- (b) Each Member must pay the annual Membership fee to Health Equity Matters no later than 30 days after receipt of a valid tax invoice from Health Equity Matters.

## 8 Affiliate Members

- (a) The Board of Health Equity Matters may from time to time and at its discretion admit any entity as an Affiliate Member.
- (b) The eligibility and admission of Affiliate Members is entirely at the discretion of the Board. Such discretion shall include (but not be limited to) consideration as to whether fees shall be payable by Affiliate Members from time to time.
- (c) Affiliate Members are not Members of Health Equity Matters.
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt, Affiliate Members do not have any rights under **clause 7**, and are not entitled to receive notices for, to attend or to vote at any meeting of the Members or of Directors.
- (e) Notwithstanding **clauses 8(c)** and **(d)**, Affiliate Members may upon invitation by the Board attend general meetings or Board meetings of Health Equity Matters but have no right to vote at those meetings.

## 9 Rights of Members are non-transferable

The rights and obligations of a Member are not transferable.

## 10 Cessation of Membership

### 10.1 Cessation of Membership

An entity ceases to be a Member if that entity:

- (a) resigns as a Member in accordance with this Constitution;
- (b) ceases to satisfy the pre-conditions to Membership under **clause 7.1(b)**;
- (c) is expelled as a Member pursuant to **clause 10.3**;
- (d) fails to pay any amount payable to Health Equity Matters within 60 days of being required to and the Board resolves that the Membership be terminated;
- (e) is uncontactable for more than 12 months and the Board resolves that the entity should cease to be a Member;
- (f) is placed under external administration or makes any composition or arrangement with its creditors;
- (g) is the subject of an order by a court of competent jurisdiction directing the body corporate to be wound up; or
- (h) becomes insolvent.

## **10.2 Resignation of Member**

A Member may resign from Health Equity Matters by giving 30 days' written notice to the Secretary.

## **10.3 Expulsion of Member**

- (a) Subject to **clause 10.3(b)**, if Health Equity Matters resolves by special resolution that it is not in the best interests of Health Equity Matters for an entity to remain as a Member, that entity is automatically expelled as a Member.
- (b) The Board must give notice to a Member of a meeting at which the resolution for that Member's expulsion is proposed:
  - (i) setting out the place, date and time of the meeting;
  - (ii) setting out the proposed resolution and the grounds for the proposed expulsion; and
  - (iii) informing the Member that it may submit written submissions to the Board before the resolution is put to vote.

## **10.4 Removal from Register of Members**

Once an entity ceases to be a Member of Health Equity Matters, it must be removed from the Register of Members.

# **10A Disciplining Members**

## **10A.1 Disciplinary action**

Subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this **clause 10A**, the Board may by resolution at a Board meeting, resolve to warn a Member or suspend a Member from Health Equity Matters if the Directors consider, acting reasonably, that:

- (a) the Member has wilfully refused or has neglected to comply with its obligations under or in connection with this Constitution and its duties as a Member;
- (b) the Member has become disengaged with Health Equity Matters and its Purpose, Objects and/or activities; or
- (c) the Member's conduct:
  - (i) is causing, has caused, or is likely to cause harm to Health Equity Matters or its officers, Members or staff;
  - (ii) is contrary to the Purpose and Objects; or
  - (iii) has brought, or is likely to bring, Health Equity Matters, its officers, Members or staff into disrepute.

## **10A.2 Requirement to notify**

At least 14 days before the Board meeting at which a resolution under **clause 10A.1** will be considered, the Secretary must provide to the relevant Member in writing:

- (a) notification that the Board is considering a resolution to warn or suspend the Member;
- (b) notification that this resolution will be considered at a Board meeting and the date of that meeting;
- (c) sufficient details of what the Member is said to have done or not done, allowing the Member to understand the nature and import of the circumstances that have prompted the Board to consider a resolution to warn or suspend the Member;
- (d) details of the nature of the resolution that is proposed; and
- (e) notification that the Member may provide an explanation to the Board, and details of how to do so, as set out in **clause 10A.3**.

### **10A.3 Opportunity to explain or defend**

Before the Board passes a resolution under **clause 10A.1**, the relevant Member must be given a chance to explain or defend themselves by, at the option and discretion of the Member:

- (a) sending the Board a written explanation before that Board meeting; and/or
- (b) speaking at the Board meeting.

### **10A.4 Board's decision**

- (a) After considering any explanation in accordance with **clause 10A.3** the Board may pass a resolution under **clause 10A.1**, resolving 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) refer the decision to an unbiased, independent person on conditions that the Board considers appropriate to report back to the Board;
  - (v) propose that the Member be considered for expulsion pursuant to **clause 10.3**; or
  - (vi) recommend the matter to be otherwise determined at a general meeting.
- (b) The Board cannot fine a Member.
- (c) The Secretary must give written notice to the Member of the decision under **clause 10A.4(a)** as soon as possible.

### **10A.5 Other matters**

- (a) Disciplinary procedures must be completed as soon as reasonably practical.

- (b) 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.

## **11 Maintenance of Register of Members**

### **11.1 Register of Members**

The Secretary must maintain a Register of Members in accordance with the Corporations Act.

### **11.2 Inspection of Register of Members**

The Register of Members must be kept at Health Equity Matters' registered office. A Member may inspect the Register of Members between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on any Business Day. No amount may be charged for inspection.

## **12 General meetings**

### **12.1 Annual general meetings**

Health Equity Matters must hold:

- (a) its first annual general meeting within 18 months after its incorporation; and
- (b) thereafter, an annual general meeting at least once each calendar year.

### **12.2 Business at annual general meeting**

Section 250R of the Corporations Act provides that the business of an annual general meeting may include any of the following, even if not referred to in the notice of meeting:

- (a) the consideration of the annual financial report, directors' report and auditor's report;
- (b) the election of the directors;
- (c) the appointment of the auditor; and
- (d) determination of auditor's remuneration.

### **12.3 Board convening a general meeting**

- (a) The Board may convene a general meeting.
- (b) Section 249C of the Corporations Act does not apply.

### **12.4 Meetings requested by Members**

- (a) If the Board receives a request from a Member or Members with at least five percent of the votes that may be cast at any general meeting, the Board must call a general meeting within 21 days after the date of receipt of that request.
- (b) The request must be in writing, detail any proposed resolution, the names of the Members requesting the meeting and be signed by all of

the Members making the request. For this purpose, signatures of the Members may be contained in more than one document.

- (c) A general meeting requested by the Members must be held no later than two calendar months after the request is received.

## **12.5 Notice of general meeting**

At least 21 days' notice of a general meeting must be given to the Members, Directors and Auditor. The notice must:

- (a) state the date, time and place (or places) of the meeting;
- (b) state the general nature of the business to be conducted at the meeting;
- (c) state any proposed resolutions;
- (d) state the names of proxies that have been appointed (if any);
- (e) contain a statement informing the Members of the right to appoint a proxy; and
- (f) (in the case of annual general meeting), subject to this Constitution, contain a statement informing the Members of the right to propose a resolution nominating a natural person for appointment as Director pursuant to **clause 18.2(b)** provided that such person complies with the requirements for a director set out in the Corporations Act and in accordance with this Constitution.

### **12.5A Further notice**

- (a) In the case of an annual general meeting, at least 7 days prior to the annual general meeting, a further notice must be given to the Members, Directors and Auditor where a Member has put forward a proposed resolution for the appointment of a Director pursuant to **clause 18.2(b)** after the notice of a general meeting has been given pursuant to **clause 12.5**.
- (b) The further notice must state any proposed resolutions regarding the proposed appointment of a Director pursuant to **clause 18.2(b)**.

## **12.6 Shorter notice of general meeting**

Subject to the Corporations Act, shorter notice of a general meeting may be given if the calling of the general meeting on shorter notice is agreed to:

- (a) in the case of an annual general meeting, by all Members entitled to attend and vote at the meeting; and
- (b) in the case of any other general meeting, by 95% of the Members entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting agree before the meeting,

and accordingly, any such general meeting will be treated as having been duly convened.



### **12.7 Notice of resumption of an adjourned meeting**

If a general meeting is adjourned for 30 days or more, at least 30 days' notice must be given to the Members, Directors and Auditor of the day, time and place (or places) for the resumption of the adjourned general meeting.

### **12.8 General Meetings at two or more places**

A general meeting may be held:

- (a) at one or more physical venues; or
- (b) at one or more physical venues and using virtual meeting technology; or
- (c) using virtual meeting technology only,

and in each case, Health Equity Matters must ensure that it gives its Members entitled to attend the meeting, as a whole, a reasonable opportunity to participate at that general meeting including to hear and be heard. For the avoidance of doubt in the case of virtual or hybrid meetings, this shall include ensuring that the technology used to hold the meeting is reasonable.

### **12.9 Postponement or cancellation of general meeting**

- (a) Subject to this Constitution and the Corporations Act, the Board may change the place (or places) of, postpone or cancel a general meeting.
- (b) If a general meeting is convened pursuant to a request by Members, the Board may not postpone or cancel the general meeting without the consent of the requesting Members.

### **12.10 Notice of change, postponement or cancellation of meeting**

- (a) If the Directors have convened a general meeting, the Board may change the place (or places) of the general meeting, postpone or cancel the general meeting. If a Director has convened a general meeting, only the Director who convened the general meeting may change the place (or places) of the general meeting, or postpone or cancel the general meeting.
- (b) If the Board changes the place (or places) of a general meeting, notice must be given to each Member and each person entitled to receive notice of the meeting of the new place (or places) of the meeting.
- (c) If the Board postpones a general meeting, notice must be given to each Member and each other person entitled to receive notice of the new date, time and place (or places) of the meeting.
- (d) If the Board cancels a general meeting, notice must be given to each Member and each other person entitled to receive notice of general meetings.

### **12.11 Omission to give notice relating to general meeting**

No resolution passed at or proceedings at any general meeting will be invalid because of any unintentional omission or error in giving or not giving notice of:

- (a) that general meeting;
- (b) any change of place (or places) of that general meeting;

- (c) postponement of that general meeting including, the date, time and place (or places) for the resumption of the adjourned meeting; or
- (d) resumption of that adjourned general meeting.

## 13 Proceedings at general meetings

### 13.1 Quorum

- (a) A quorum at a general meeting is 60% or more of Members present in person or by proxy, which must include:
  - (i) at least two Nominating Members; and
  - (ii) at least two other Members.
- (b) The quorum must be present at all times during the general meeting.
- (c) If a Member has appointed more than one proxy and two or more proxies attend a general meeting, only one proxy will be counted for the purposes of determining whether there is a quorum.

### 13.2 Lack of quorum

- (a) If a quorum is not present within one hour after the time appointed for a general meeting (or any longer period of time as the chair may allow) or ceases to be present at any time during the general meeting, the general meeting:
  - (i) if convened by a Director or on the request of Members, is dissolved; or
  - (ii) in any other case:
    - (A) is adjourned to be resumed on a day, time and place (or places) as the chair determines or if the chair is not present as the Directors at the meeting may determine; or
    - (B) if the Directors do not so determine, no Director is present or no Director present determines:
      - (1) the date for the resumption of the adjourned general meeting will be on the same day in the next week;
      - (2) the time for the resumption of the adjourned general meeting will be at the same time as the adjourned meeting; and
      - (3) the place (or places) for the resumption of the adjourned general meeting, will be at the same place (or places) as the adjourned meeting.
- (b) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the resumption of the adjourned general meeting or ceases to be present during the meeting, the general meeting is dissolved.

### **13.3 Chairing general meetings**

- (a) The President, and in the President's absence the Vice President, is to be the chair of any general meeting of Health Equity Matters.
- (b) If the President or Vice President is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for any general meeting or if the President or Vice President is unwilling or unable to act as chair for the whole or any part of that general meeting, the Directors present may elect a Director present to chair that general meeting.
- (c) If no Director is elected or if all the Directors present decline to take the chair for the whole or any part of that general meeting, the Members present (whether in person or by proxy) may elect a Member present (in person) to chair for the whole or any part of that general meeting. If the Members do not so elect a chair, the meeting will be adjourned to be resumed on the same day, at the same time and at the same place (or places) in the following week.

### **13.4 Conduct of general meetings**

The chair of each general meeting has charge of conduct of that meeting, including the procedures to be adopted and the application of those procedures at that meeting.

### **13.5 Adjournment**

- (a) The chair of a general meeting may adjourn the meeting to another date, time and place (or places) if it appears to the chair that it is likely to be impracticable to hold or to continue to hold the meeting because of the number of Members who wish to attend but who are not present.
- (b) If a majority of Members present at a general meeting in person or by proxy determine that the meeting should be adjourned, the chair must adjourn the meeting to another date, time and place (or places) determined by the chair.
- (c) No business may be transacted on the resumption of an adjourned or postponed general meeting other than the business referred to in the notice convening the adjourned or postponed general meeting.

### **13.6 Use of technology**

Where a general meeting is convened or held using technology in accordance with **clause 12.8**:

- (a) if a number of Members equal to the quorum is able to hear or to see and to hear each other, there is a meeting and that meeting is quorate. The rules relating to general meetings apply to each such meeting as determined by the chair of the meeting to the extent appropriate;
- (b) a Member participating at a meeting using the chosen technology is treated as being present in person at the meeting; and
- (c) a meeting using technology is to be taken to be held at:

- (i) where the meeting is held in at least one physical venue and is also held using virtual meeting technology, the main physical venue of the meetings as set out in the notice of meeting; and
- (ii) where the meeting is held using virtual meeting technology only, the registered office of Health Equity Matters.

## 14 Proxy

### 14.1 Appointment of proxy

- (a) A Member who is entitled to attend and to vote at a general meeting of Health Equity Matters may appoint a person as proxy to attend, speak and vote for that Member. The instrument appointing a proxy may restrict the exercise of any power.
- (b) A proxy may be, but does not have to be, a Member.
- (c) An appointment of a proxy may be a standing one.
- (d) A proxy is not entitled to vote if the Member who has appointed the proxy is present in person at the meeting.

### 14.2 Proxy instruments

- (a) An appointment of a proxy must be in writing and be signed by the Member appointing the proxy or by the duly authorised attorney of the Member and state:
  - (i) the Member's name and address;
  - (ii) Health Equity Matters' name;
  - (iii) the proxy's name or the name of the office held by the proxy; and
  - (iv) the general meeting at which the proxy may be used, or if the appointment is a standing one, a clear statement to that effect.
- (b) Where a proxy is signed pursuant to a power of attorney, a copy of the power of attorney (certified as a true copy of the original) must be attached to the proxy instrument sent to Health Equity Matters.
- (c) An instrument appointing a proxy may direct the way in which a proxy is to vote on a particular resolution. If an instrument contains a direction, the proxy must vote as directed in the instrument, and is not entitled to vote on the proposed resolution except as directed in the instrument. If an instrument does not contain a direction, the proxy is entitled to vote on the proposed resolution as the proxy considers appropriate.
- (d) If a proxy is appointed to vote on a particular resolution by more than one Member, that proxy:
  - (i) may vote on a show of hands in the same way if each instrument appointing the proxy directs the proxy to vote in the same way or does not direct the proxy how to vote;

- (ii) may not vote on a show of hands unless each instrument appointing the proxy and directing the proxy to vote in a particular way directs the proxy to vote in the same way.

### **14.3 Proxy to be received by Health Equity Matters**

An instrument purporting to appoint a proxy is not effective unless it is received, together with any additional documentation, including a copy of the power of attorney (certified as a true copy of the original), by Health Equity Matters at least 48 hours before the general meeting or, as the case may be, the resumption of an adjourned general meeting, at any of the following:

- (a) the registered office; or
- (b) a place or electronic address specified for that purpose in the notice of the general meeting.

### **14.4 Power to demand poll**

A proxy may demand, or join in demanding, a poll in accordance with this Constitution.

### **14.5 Revocation of proxy**

The appointment of a proxy may be revoked by the Member who appointed the proxy by notice to Health Equity Matters from the Member or, as the case may be, the duly authorised attorney of the Member, stating that the appointment of a proxy is revoked or by appointing a new proxy.

### **14.6 Validity of votes of proxy**

A vote cast by a proxy will be valid unless before the start of a general meeting (or, in the case of an adjourned or postponed general meeting, not less than 48 hours before the resumption of the adjourned or postponed general meeting) at which a proxy votes:

- (a) the Member who appointed the proxy ceases to be a Member; or
- (b) Health Equity Matters receives notice of:
  - (i) the revocation of the instrument appointing the proxy;
  - (ii) the appointment of a new proxy; or
  - (iii) the revocation of any power of attorney under which the proxy was appointed.

### **14.7 No liability**

Health Equity Matters is not responsible for ensuring that any directions provided in the instrument appointing the proxy or the way in which a proxy is to vote on a particular resolution are complied with, and accordingly is not liable if those directions are not complied with.

## 15 Representatives

### 15.1 Appointment of representative

- (a) A Member may appoint up to two natural persons as its representatives to exercise on its behalf any or all of the powers it may exercise:
  - (i) at meetings of the Members;
  - (ii) at meetings of creditors or debenture holders; or
  - (iii) relating to resolutions to be passed without meetings.
- (b) The appointment of representatives may be a standing one.
- (c) In appointing a representative under this **clause 15.1**, a Member must be cognisant of the Objects and Purpose of Health Equity Matters and will seek to nominate a representative who is HIV positive.
- (d) Members must select representatives who are members of their organisation or of their Board or management committee or employees of their organisation.

### 15.2 Authority to act as representative

- (a) An appointment of a representative must be in writing and be signed by an authorised representative of the organisation appointing the representative and state:
  - (i) the Member's name and address;
  - (ii) Health Equity Matters' name;
  - (iii) the representative's name or the name of the office held by the representative; and
  - (iv) the general meeting at which the representative may act, or if the appointment is a standing one, a clear statement to that effect.
- (b) The instrument appointing the representative may restrict the exercise of any power.

### 15.3 Instrument to be received by Health Equity Matters

- (a) An instrument purporting to appoint a representative is not valid unless it is received by Health Equity Matters at least 48 hours before the general meeting or, in the case of an adjourned meeting, at least 48 hours before the resumption of an adjourned general meeting.
- (b) An instrument appointing a representative must be received by Health Equity Matters at any of the following:
  - (i) the registered office; or
  - (ii) a place or electronic address specified for that purpose in the notice of the general meeting.

### 15.4 Revocation and appointment of representative

The appointment of a representative may be revoked by the Member who appointed the representative by notice to Health Equity Matters from the

Member stating that the appointment of the representative is revoked or by appointing a new representative.

### **15.5 Validity of votes of representative**

A vote cast by a representative will be valid unless before the start of the general meeting (or, in the case of an adjourned or postponed general meeting, not less than 48 hours before the resumption of the adjourned or postponed general meeting) at which a representative votes:

- (a) the Member who appointed the representative ceases to be a Member; or
- (b) Health Equity Matters has received notice of:
  - (i) the revocation of the instrument appointing the representative; or
  - (ii) the appointment of a new representative.

### **15.6 No liability**

Health Equity Matters is not responsible for ensuring that the terms of appointment of a representative are complied with, and accordingly is not liable if those terms are not complied with.

## **16 Voting**

### **16.1 Entitlement to vote**

- (a) Each Member entitled to vote at a general meeting may vote in person or by proxy.
- (b) Each Member has two votes, whether on a show of hands, or on a poll and will determine, at the Member's sole discretion, how those two votes are exercised by its representative(s) that are appointed under **clause 15** of this Constitution.

### **16.2 Casting vote**

If on any ordinary resolution an equal number of votes is cast for and against a resolution, the chair has no casting vote.

### **16.3 Proxy vote to be identified**

Before a vote is taken the chair must inform the Members present whether any proxy votes have been received and, if so, how the proxy votes are to be cast.

### **16.4 Voting on resolution**

At any general meeting, a resolution put to a vote must be determined by a show of hands unless a poll is demanded in accordance with this Constitution.

### **16.5 Objection to right to vote**

- (a) A challenge to a right to vote at a general meeting:
  - (i) may only be made at that general meeting; and
  - (ii) must be determined by the chair.

- (b) A determination made by the chair in relation to a challenge to a right to vote is binding on all Members and is final.

## **16.6 Written resolutions**

Members may pass a resolution without a general meeting being held if all the Members entitled to vote on the resolution sign a document or otherwise express consent in a document (which may be in the form of an email) containing a statement that they are in favour of the resolution set out in the document. For this purpose, signatures of the Members may be contained in more than one document.

## **16.7 Minutes**

- (a) Unless a poll is demanded in accordance with this Constitution, a declaration by the chair that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been:
  - (i) carried;
  - (ii) carried unanimously;
  - (iii) carried by a particular majority; or
  - (iv) lost or not carried by a particular majority,is conclusive evidence of the fact declared. An entry to that effect made in the minutes book of Health Equity Matters signed by the chair is evidence of that fact unless the contrary is proved.
- (b) Within one month after each general meeting, the Directors must record or cause to be recorded in the minutes book:
  - (i) the proceedings and resolutions of each general meeting;
  - (ii) any declarations at each general meeting; and
  - (i) all resolutions passed by Members without a general meeting.
- (c) The chair, or the chair of the next meeting, must sign the minutes within one month after the general meeting.
- (d) The minute books must be kept at the registered office.
- (e) Members may inspect the minute books between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on any Business Day. No amount may be charged for inspection.

## **16.8 Disputes to be resolved by chair**

The chair will determine any dispute in relation to any vote, and the determination of the chair is binding on all Members and is final.

## **17 Poll**

### **17.1 Chair may determine to take a poll**

The chair of a general meeting may determine that a poll be taken on any resolution.



## 17.2 Right to demand poll

A poll may be demanded on any resolution at a general meeting other than the election of a chair or the question of an adjournment by:

- (a) at least five Members entitled to vote on the resolution; or
- (b) Members with at least five percent of the votes that may be cast on the resolution on a poll; or
- (c) the chair.

## 17.3 Procedure for demanding poll

- (a) A poll may be demanded:
  - (i) before a vote on a show of hands is taken;
  - (ii) before the result of a vote on a show of hands is declared; or
  - (iii) immediately after the result of a vote on a show of hands is declared.
- (b) If a poll is demanded, it may be taken in the manner and at the time and place (or places) as the chair directs.
- (c) A demand for a poll may be withdrawn at any time by the person or persons who demanded it. A demand for a poll which is withdrawn does not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand for the poll was made.
- (d) A demand for a poll does not prevent the general meeting continuing for the transaction of any business other than the question on which a poll has been duly demanded.

# 18 Appointment and removal of Directors

## 18.1 Number of Directors

- (a) The number of Directors must not be less than five and no more than 13.
- (b) Each of the following organisations may nominate one person to be appointed as a Director on the Board of Health Equity Matters for so long as such organisations continue as Members of Health Equity Matters:
  - (i) National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA);
  - (ii) Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users' League (AIVL);
  - (iii) Scarlet Alliance, the Australian Sex Workers Association (Scarlet Alliance); and
  - (iv) Anwernekenhe National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HIV/AIDS Alliance (ANA).
- (c) If a person nominated under **clause 18.1(b)**:
  - (i) is at least 18 years old;

- (ii) is not disqualified from managing corporations under Part 2D.6 of the Corporations Act;
  - (iii) has not been suspended, removed or disqualified from being a Responsible Entity by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission; and
  - (iv) has signed a written consent to act as a Director,
- that person must be appointed to the Board of Health Equity Matters.
- (d) At least two Directors must reside ordinarily in Australia.
  - (e) The Board may from time to time appoint up to three Co-opted Directors.

## **18.2 Appointment of Directors**

- (a) The nomination of a Director by a Nominating Member pursuant to **clause 18.1(b)** shall be made by notice in writing to the Secretary.
- (b) In addition to the Directors appointed pursuant to **clause 18.1(c)** and **clause 18.1(e)**, and subject to this Constitution, Health Equity Matters may by resolution at a general meeting appoint a natural person as a Director. Such a resolution can only be put to the annual general meeting if the proposed resolution, including the name of any candidate for appointment as a Director, is:
  - (i) communicated by a Member to the Secretary at least 8 days prior to the annual general meeting;
  - (ii) has been included in the further notice of meeting given to Members, Directors and Auditor in accordance with **clause 12.5A**; and
  - (iii) in compliance with this Constitution and the Corporations Act.
- (c) In addition to the Directors appointed pursuant to **clause 18.1(c)** and **clause 18.1(e)**, and subject to this Constitution, the Board may by resolution at a Board meeting appoint a natural person as a Director, as an additional Director or to fill the office of a Director vacated when a Director ceases to be a Director.
- (d) An appointment of a person as a Director is not effective unless a signed consent to the appointment is provided by that person to Health Equity Matters. The appointment of a person as a Director will take effect on the later of the date of appointment and the date on which Health Equity Matters receives the signed consent.
- (e) If the office of a Director nominated by a Nominating Member is vacated, the vacancy may be filled by a nominee from the relevant organisation and must be ratified by the Board.
- (f) A person must not be appointed as a Director if that person is ineligible to be a director under the Corporations Act or the ACNC Act.

### **18.3 Term of appointment**

- (a) The term of appointment of each Director is two years, with the exception of any Co-opted Director whose term of appointment is one year.
- (b) Subject to **clause 18.3(c)** and this Constitution, a Director is eligible for re-appointment at the conclusion of a term of appointment.
- (c) A Director who has held office for a continuous period of eight years or more may only be re-appointed by a special resolution at a general meeting.

### **18.4 Confirmation of appointment**

- (a) If a person is appointed as a Director by the Board pursuant to **clause 18.2(c)**, Health Equity Matters must confirm the appointment at the next annual general meeting.
- (b) If the appointment is not confirmed, the person ceases to be a Director at the conclusion of the annual general meeting.

### **18.5 Removal of Director**

- (a) A Nominating Member may remove any Director it has nominated pursuant to **clause 18.1(b)** at any time by notice in writing to the Secretary.
- (b) Health Equity Matters may remove a Director by resolution at a general meeting.
- (c) At least two months' notice must be given by the Board to Health Equity Matters of the intention to move a resolution to remove a Director at a general meeting.
- (d) If notice of intention to move a resolution to remove a Director at a general meeting is received by Health Equity Matters, a Director must be given a copy of the notice as soon as practicable.
- (e) The Director must be informed that the Director:
  - (i) may submit a written statement to Health Equity Matters for circulation to the Members before the meeting at which the resolution is put to a vote; and
  - (ii) may speak to the motion to remove the Director at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be put to vote.
- (f) At least 21 days' notice must be given to the Members of a general meeting at which the resolution for the removal of a Director is proposed. The notice must set out the proposed resolution and the grounds for the proposed resolution.

### **18.6 Cessation of Directorship**

A person ceases to be a Director and the office of Director is vacated if:

- (a) the person is removed from office as a Director by a resolution of Health Equity Matters at a general meeting pursuant to **clause 18.5(b)**;

- (b) the person resigns as a Director in accordance with this Constitution;
- (c) the person is subject to assessment or treatment under any mental health law and the Board resolves that the person should cease to be a Director;
- (d) the person dies;
- (e) the person is disqualified from acting as a Director under the Corporations Act;
- (f) the person is absent from Board meetings for a continuous period of six months without leave of absence from the Board and the Board resolves that the Director's office should be vacated;
- (g) the person is suspended or removed from being a Responsible Entity of Health Equity Matters by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission;
- (h) the person is disqualified from being a Responsible Entity by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission; or
- (i) the Nominating Member that has nominated that person ceases to be a Member, and the Director shall be deemed to have retired when its Nominating Member ceases to be a Member.

## **18.7 Resignation of Directors**

A Director may resign from the office of Director by giving notice of resignation to Health Equity Matters at its registered office.

# **19 Powers and duties of Board**

## **19.1 Powers**

- (a) Subject to this Constitution and the Corporations Act, the activities of Health Equity Matters are to be managed by, or under the direction of, the Board.
- (b) Subject to this Constitution and the Corporations Act, the Board may exercise all powers of Health Equity Matters that are not required to be exercised by Health Equity Matters in a general meeting.

## **19.2 Committees and delegates**

- (a) The Board may delegate any of its powers and functions to a committee, a Director, an employee of Health Equity Matters or any other person, as it considers appropriate.
- (b) The delegation must be recorded in Health Equity Matters' minute book.
- (c) A committee or delegate must exercise the powers delegated in accordance with any directions of the Board.
- (d) Any power delegated in accordance with **clause 19.2(a)** may be revoked, withdrawn, altered or varied as the Board decides.

- (e) Subject to the terms of appointment or reference of any committee, the provisions of this Constitution applying to meetings and resolutions of directors apply, insofar as they can and with the necessary changes, to meetings and resolutions of a committee.
- (f) Nothing in this **clause 19.2** limits the powers of the Board to delegate.

## 20 Chief Executive Officer

- (a) The Board may appoint a Chief Executive Officer for such period, and on such terms (including as to remuneration), as the Board determines.
- (b) The Board may confer on a Chief Executive Officer any of the powers that the Board may exercise.
- (c) The Board may vary or revoke a conferral of any power on the Chief Executive Officer.
- (d) The Board may at any time vary or revoke an appointment of a Chief Executive Officer.

## 21 Negotiable instruments

All negotiable instruments and all receipts for money paid to Health Equity Matters must be signed, drawn, accepted, endorsed or otherwise executed in such manner as the Board may determine.

## 22 Board meetings

### 22.1 Number of meetings

Subject to this Constitution, at least six meetings of the Board must be convened in each calendar year.

### 22.2 Convening meetings

- (a) In the ordinary course, the Secretary will convene Board meetings in accordance with the determinations of the Board.
- (b) A Director may at any time convene a Board meeting by notice to the other Directors.

### 22.3 Notice of meetings

- (a) Reasonable notice of each Board meeting must be given to the Directors entitled to receive notice (if any).
- (b) Each notice must state:
  - (i) the date, time and place (or places) of the Board meeting;
  - (ii) the general nature of the business to be conducted at the Board meeting; and
  - (iii) any proposed resolutions.

#### **22.4 Omission to give notice**

No resolution passed at or proceedings at any Board meeting will be invalid because of any unintentional omission or error in giving or not giving notice of:

- (a) that Board meeting;
- (b) any change of place (or places) of that Board meeting;
- (c) postponement of that Board meeting; or
- (d) resumption of that adjourned Board meeting.

#### **22.5 Use of technology**

- (a) A Board meeting may be convened or held using any technology consented to by all Directors. The consent may be a standing one. A Director may withdraw consent to the use of a particular technology within a reasonable time period before a Board meeting.
- (b) If a number of Directors equal to the quorum is able to hear or to see and to hear each other Director contemporaneously using any technology consented to by all Directors, there is a meeting and that meeting is quorate. The rules relating to meetings of Directors apply to each such meeting.
- (c) A Director participating at a meeting using technology consented to by all Directors is treated as being present in person at the meeting.
- (d) A meeting using technology consented to by all Directors is to be taken to be held at the place determined by the chair of the meeting.

#### **22.6 Quorum at meetings**

A quorum at a Board meeting is 50% of the Directors. The quorum must be present at all times during the Board meeting.

#### **22.7 Chair of meetings**

- (a) The Directors must elect:
  - (i) a Director to hold the office of President; and
  - (ii) a separate Director to hold the office of Vice President.
- (b) The Board will determine the terms on which each person is to hold such office.
- (c) The President or, in the President's absence, the Vice President, will chair each Board meeting.
- (d) If the President, or in the President's absence, the Vice President, is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for a Board meeting or if the chair is unwilling or unable to act as chair for the whole or any part of that Board meeting, the Directors present may elect a Director present to chair that Board meeting.

#### **22.8 Passing resolutions at meetings**

- (a) A resolution of the Board must be passed by a majority of the votes cast by the Directors entitled to vote on the resolution.

- (b) Each Director present in person is entitled to vote and has one vote.

### **22.9 Casting vote**

If on any resolution an equal number of votes is cast for and against a resolution, the chair has no casting vote in addition to any vote cast by the chair as a Director.

### **22.10 Conduct of meetings**

The chair of each Board meeting has charge of conduct of that meeting, of the procedures to be adopted and the application of those procedures at that meeting.

### **22.11 Written resolutions**

The Board may pass a resolution without a Board meeting being held if all the Directors entitled to vote on the resolution sign a document or otherwise express consent in a document (which may be in the form of an email) containing a statement that they are in favour of the resolution set out in the document. For this purpose, signatures can be contained in more than one document, with each document to be identical to each other document.

### **22.12 Minutes of meetings**

- (a) Within one month after each Board meeting, the Directors must record or cause to be recorded in the minute books:
  - (i) the proceedings and resolutions of each Board meeting (including meetings of any committees); and
  - (ii) all resolutions passed without a Board meeting.
- (b) The chair, or the chair of the next Board meeting, must sign the minutes as soon as reasonably practicable after the meeting.
- (c) The minute books must be kept at the registered office.
- (d) The Directors may inspect the minute books between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on any Business Day. No amount may be charged for inspection.

## **23 Directors' interests**

### **23.1 Declaration of interest**

- (a) Any Director who has a material personal interest in a contract or proposed contract of Health Equity Matters, holds any office or owns any property such that the Director might have duties or interests which conflict or may conflict either directly or indirectly with the Director's duties or interests as a Director, must give the Board notice of the interest at a Board meeting.
- (b) A notice of a material personal interest must set out:
  - (i) the nature and extent of the interest; and
  - (ii) the relation of the interest to the affairs of Health Equity Matters.

- (c) The notice must be provided to the Board at a Board meeting as soon as practicable.

### **23.2 Voting by interested Directors**

A Director who has a material personal interest in a matter that is being considered at a Board meeting must not:

- (a) vote on the matter at a meeting; or
- (b) be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting, and accordingly will not count for the purposes of determining whether there is a quorum.

## **24 Appointment of Secretary**

- (a) Health Equity Matters must have at least one Secretary.
- (b) The Board has the power to appoint the Public Officer, Chief Executive Officer or a member of the Board as Secretary on the terms and for such period as the Board may determine.
- (c) Any Secretary appointed may be removed at any time by the Board.

## **25 Removal and remuneration of Auditor**

### **25.1 Remuneration of Auditor**

The remuneration of the Auditor may be determined by Health Equity Matters at a general meeting. If the remuneration is not determined at a general meeting, it may be determined by the Directors at a Board meeting.

### **25.2 Removal of Auditor**

- (a) Health Equity Matters may remove an Auditor by resolution at a general meeting.
- (b) At least two months' notice must be given by the Board to Health Equity Matters of the intention to move a resolution to remove an Auditor at a general meeting.
- (c) If notice of an intention to move a resolution to remove the Auditor at a general meeting is received by Health Equity Matters, the Auditor must be given a copy of the notice as soon as practicable.
- (d) The notice of an intention must also inform the Auditor that the Auditor:
  - (i) may submit written representations to Health Equity Matters within seven days after receiving the notice and that the Auditor may request Health Equity Matters to send a copy of the written representations to the Members before the resolution is voted upon; and



- (ii) may speak at the general meeting or request that the written representations be read at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be put to a vote.

### **25.3 Auditor's attendance at general meetings**

The Auditor must be notified of, and may attend, any general meeting. The Auditor is entitled to be heard at any general meeting it attends on any part of the business of the general meeting which concerns the Auditor.

## **26 Financial records**

### **26.1 Member's access to financial records**

The Board may determine whether and, if so, the extent to which and at what times and which place and under what conditions any financial record or other record of Health Equity Matters may be inspected by a Member or any person.

### **26.2 Directors' access to financial records**

Any Director may at any time access and inspect any financial record of Health Equity Matters.

### **26.3 Access to financial records after ceasing to be a Director**

The Board may determine that any person who is to cease or has ceased to be a Director may continue to have access to and inspect any financial record of Health Equity Matters relating to the time during which the person was a Director.

## **27 Notices**

### **27.1 General**

Any notice, statement or other communication under this Constitution must be in writing.

### **27.2 How to give a communication**

In addition to any other way allowed by the Corporations Act, a notice or other communication may be given by being:

- (a) personally delivered;
- (b) left at the person's current address as recorded in the Register of Members;
- (c) sent to the person's address as recorded in the Register of Members by pre-paid ordinary mail or, if the address is outside Australia, by pre-paid airmail; or
- (d) sent by email to the person's current email address for notices.

### **27.3 Communications by post**

A communication is given if posted:

- (a) within Australia to an Australian address, three Business Days after posting;
- (b) outside Australia to an address outside Australia, ten Business Days after posting.

### **27.4 Communications by email**

A communication is given if sent by email unless the sender receives a delivery failure notification indicating that the email has not been delivered to the information system of the recipient.

### **27.5 After hours communications**

If a communication is given:

- (a) after 5.00 pm in the place of receipt; or
- (b) on a day which is a Saturday, Sunday or bank or public holiday in the place of receipt,

it is taken as having been given at 9.00 am on the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or bank or public holiday in that place.

## **28 Indemnity and Insurance**

### **28.1 Indemnity**

- (a) To the extent permitted by the Corporations Act and subject to the Corporations Act, Health Equity Matters may indemnify each officer, Director and Secretary or any person who has been an officer, Director or Secretary of Health Equity Matters out of the assets of Health Equity Matters against any liability, loss, damage, cost or expense incurred or to be incurred by the officer, Director or Secretary in or arising out of the conduct of any activity of Health Equity Matters or in or arising out of the proper performance of the officer's, Director's or Secretary's duties including any liability, loss, damage, cost, charge and expense incurred by that officer, Director or Secretary in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, which relate to anything done or omitted to be done or alleged to have been done or omitted to be done by the officer, Director or Secretary, in which judgment is given in the officer's, Director's or Secretary's favour or in which the officer, Director or Secretary is acquitted or in connection with any application in relation to any such proceedings in which relief is granted by the court to the officer, Director or Secretary.
- (b) This indemnity is not intended to indemnify any officer, Director or Secretary in respect of any liability in respect of which Health Equity Matters must not give an indemnity, and should be construed and, if necessary, read down accordingly.

## **28.2 Documenting indemnity**

Health Equity Matters may enter into an agreement containing an indemnity in favour of any officer, Director or Secretary. The Board will determine the terms of the indemnity contained in the agreement.

## **28.3 Insurance**

- (a) To the extent permitted by the Corporations Act and subject to the Corporations Act, Health Equity Matters may pay any premium in respect of a contract of insurance between an insurer and an officer, Director or Secretary or any person who has been an officer, Director or Secretary of Health Equity Matters in respect of the liability suffered or incurred in or arising out of the conduct of any activity of Health Equity Matters and the proper performance by the officer, Director or Secretary of any duty.
- (b) If the Board determines, Health Equity Matters may execute a document containing rules under which Health Equity Matters agrees to pay any premium in relation to such a contract of insurance.

# **29 Winding up**

## **29.1 Liabilities and surplus assets**

- (a) At the first occurrence of:
  - (i) the winding up of Health Equity Matters; or
  - (ii) if Health Equity Matters is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-BA of the Tax Act, the revocation of that endorsement or Health Equity Matters ceasing to be so endorsed,

Health Equity Matters must, subject to **clause 29.2**, apply its assets to satisfaction of all debts and liabilities of Health Equity Matters, the payment of the costs and charges and expenses of winding up.

- (b) Any surplus assets of Health Equity Matters remaining after payment of the amounts referred to in **clause 29.1(a)** must be transferred to another organisation in Australia which:
  - (i) if Health Equity Matters is or was previously endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-BA of the Tax Act, is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under Subdivision 30-BA of the Tax Act or equivalent provisions; and
  - (ii) has similar objects to the objects of Health Equity Matters and whose constitution prohibits the distribution of its income and property among members.

## **29.2 Revocation of ATO endorsement**

Health Equity Matters' endorsement (if any) under Subdivision 30-BA of the Tax Act is not considered "revoked" for the purposes of **clause 29.1** until the later of:

- (a) 60 days have elapsed since receiving written notice of revocation from the ATO; or
- (b) the finalisation of all objection processes or court proceedings, if any, in relation to the revocation.

## 30 Dispute Resolution

### 30.1 Application of the dispute resolution procedure

The dispute resolution procedure in this clause applies to disputes and/or disagreements under this Constitution between a Member or Director and:

- (a) one or more Members; and/or
- (b) one or more Directors; and/or
- (c) Health Equity Matters.

### 30.2 Obligation to negotiate

Those involved in the dispute must try to resolve it between themselves within 14 days of knowing about it.

### 30.3 Mediation of dispute

- (a) If those involved in the dispute do not resolve it under **clause 30.2**, they must within 10 days:
  - (i) notify the President about the dispute in writing;
  - (ii) agree or request that a mediator be appointed; and
  - (iii) attempt in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (b) The mediator must:
  - (i) be chosen by agreement of those involved, or
  - (ii) where those involved do not agree:
    - (A) for disputes between Members, a person chosen by the Board, or
    - (B) for other disputes, a person chosen by either the Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission or the President of the Law Society of New South Wales.
- (c) A mediator chosen by the Board under **clause 30.3(b)(ii)(A)**:
  - (i) must not have a personal interest in the dispute; and
  - (ii) must not be biased towards or against anyone involved in the dispute.
- (d) When conducting the mediation, the mediator must:
  - (i) allow those involved a reasonable chance to be heard;

- (ii) allow those involved a reasonable chance to review any written statements;
- (iii) ensure that those involved are given natural justice; and
- (iv) not make a decision on the dispute.