

## **ARTICLE 1: NAME**

The name of the Organisation shall be: THE ARMENIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## **ARTICLE 2: OBJECTS**

- (A) Raise funds by way of donations. Levies, organising social gatherings (dinner dances, balls), selling lotteries under form of art unions.
- (B) Assist in creating an Exarchate for the Armenian Catholic Community. An Exarchate is a legal entity that incorporates the Church, Schools and other assets belonging to the Armenian Catholic Community.
- (C) Build a Primary School where education will be given according to State and Federal standards.
- (D) To form a social club.
- (E) To build a home for the aged.
- (F) Be active in the following:
  - (i) To help sponsor Armenian migrants from overseas.
  - (ii) To help them settle in Australia.
  - (iii) To assist them by finding suitable employment
- (G) To support the sovereignty and constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia.
- (H) To help the Head of the Armenian Catholic Community in Australia (Currently reverend Father Basil Soussanieh) in his non-spiritual duties.
- (I) To help the poor and needy people of the Armenian Community in Australia
- (J) To foster and maintain the Armenian Culture in Australia.

## **ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to any person above the age of eighteen years being a member of the Armenian Catholic Community whether by birth, ancestry or by association such as marriage, upon application in writing signed by the applicant and such application shall be in such form as the committee from time to time prescribes.

## **ARTICLE 4: MANAGEMENT**

The Management of the Organisation shall be vested in a Management Committee consisting of the office bearers and such other officers as shall be decided by the members of the Organisation at the Annual General Meeting provided that all such office bearers are members of the Organisation.

No member of the Management Committee shall be appointment to any salaried office of the Organisation or any office of the Organisation paid by fees and no remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth shall be given by the Organisation to any members of the Management Committee except repayment of out-of-pocket expenses, interest at a rate not exceeding interest at the rate for the time being charged by Bankers in Sydney for money lent to the Organisation and reasonable and proper rent for premises let to the Organisation.

## **ARTICLE 5: OFFICE-BEARERS**

The office-bearers shall consist of: -

Head of the Armenian Catholic Community in Australia Reverend Father Basil Soussanieh as permanent honorary Chairman or his successor as recognised by the Catholic Hierarchy of Australia. A President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as shall be decided by the members of the

Organisation at the Annual General Meeting. The office-bearers and the other members of the Management Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. Any casual vacancy occurring among the office-bearers may be filled by the Committee and the person so appointed to fill such vacancy shall Hold office for the unexpired term of the member so replaced.

#### **ARTICLE 6: PROCEEDINGS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- (A) The Management Committee may meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise appoint and regulate its meetings as it thinks fit. The president may at any time and the Secretary on the requisition of any two members of the Committee summon a meeting of the Committee
- (B) Questions arising at any meeting of the Committee shall be decided by a majority of votes of those present and a determination by a majority of the members of the Committee present shall for all purposes be a determination of the Committee. In case of an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (C) The continuing members of the Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy in the Committee, but if and so long as their numbers is reduced below the number fixed by or pursuant to these Rules as the necessary quorum, the continuing member or members may act for the purposes of increasing the number of members of the Committee from amongst the members, which they are hereby empowered to do, or of summoning a general meeting of the Organisation, but for no other purpose.

#### **ARTICLE 7: VACATION OF OFFICE**

The office of a member of the Management Committee or of a trustee shall become vacant:

- (A) Upon his decease.
- (B) If he becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally.
- (C) If he becomes mentally ill or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with, in any way under the law relating to mental health.
- (D) If he resigns his office by notice in writing to the Organisation.
- (E) If he is absent for more than three months without leave of the Committee from meetings of the Committee held during that period.
- (F) If he ceases to be a member of the Community.
- (G) Upon a resolution being passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a properly constituted general meeting specially called for the purpose, to remove him from office.
- (H) If he holds any office of profit under the Organisation.
- (I) If he is directly or indirectly interested in any contract or proposed contract with the Organisation.

#### **ARTICLE 8: FINANCIAL YEAR**

The financial year shall conclude on 30th June of each year.

#### **ARTICLE 9: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of members shall be held during the month of September in each year, when the Annual Report and audited financial statement shall be presented.

## **ARTICLE 10: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

Any two members of the Management Committee may at any time convene a Special General Meeting of the Organisation. Special General Meetings shall also be convened by the Secretary upon the written request of not less than five per centum in numbers of the members of the Organisation and shall be held within a period of one month from the date of receipt of the request.

## **ARTICLE 11: QUORUM**

At meeting of members a quorum shall consist of four tenth Of membership registered and at a Management Committee Meeting shall consist of five members.

Should within half an hour of the time set down for a meeting to commence, a quorum be not present, then the meeting shall be adjourned to the same time and place seven days later or to a place and to a time within a month of the date of such meeting, to be determined thereat. If at such adjourned meeting a quorum be not present, then those members attending shall be deemed to be a quorum, provided, the number of such members is not less than three.

## **ARTICLE 12: PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

- (A) The President shall preside as Chairman at every general meeting of the Organisation, but if he is not present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unwilling to act then the members present shall elect one of their number to be chairman of the meeting, a simple majority sufficing.
- (B) The Chairman may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. When a meeting is adjourned for thirty days or more notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of an original meeting. Save as aforesaid it shall not be necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.
- (C) At any general meeting a resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) demanded by the Chairman or by at least three members present. Unless a poll is so demanded a declaration by the Chairman that at resolution has on a show of hands been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, and as entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of the proceedings of the Organisation shall each be conclusive evidence or the fact without proof of the numbers or proportion of votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution. The demand for a poll may be withdrawn.
- (D) If a poll is duly demanded it shall be taken in such manner and either at once or after an interval or adjournment or otherwise as the Chairman directs and the result of the poll shall be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded but a poll demanded on the election of a Chairman or on the question of adjournment shall be taken forthwith.
- (E) In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chairman of a meeting at which the show of hands takes place or at which a poll is demanded shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.
- (F) Each member present and voting at a general meeting of the Organisation shall have one vote.

## **ARTICLE 13: NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

The Secretary shall give at least seven days notice in writing of all general meetings to the members of the Community specifying the place, the day and the hour of meeting and the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 14: FUNDS**

- (A) All moneys received by the Organisation shall be deposited intact at the earliest possible date to the credit of the Organisation's Bank account. Receipts for moneys received shall also be issued promptly.
- (B) All payments in excess of \$100.00 made by the Organisation shall be paid by cheque signed by any two of the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **ARTICLE 15: AUTHORIZATION OF ACCOUNTS**

All accounts shall be presented to and passed for payment at the Management Committee Meeting and full details of all such approvals shall be entered in the Minute Book. True accounts shall be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Association and the matters in respect of which such receipt or expenditure takes place and of the property credits and liabilities of the Association and subject to any reasonable restrictions as to time and manner of inspecting the same that may be imposed in accordance with the regulations of the Association for the time being shall be open to the inspection of the members.

#### **ARTICLE 16: AUDIT**

- (A) The auditor or auditors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. They shall examine all accounts, vouchers, receipts, book, etc, and furnish a report thereon to the members at the Annual Meeting. Audits shall be conducted at regular intervals of not more than twelve months.
- (B) An auditor shall not be a member or closely related to a member of the Management Committee.
- (C) Subject to paragraph (d) hereof notice of the intention to nominate an auditor to replace the current auditor shall be given to the Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary shall send a copy of the nomination to the current auditor at least seven (7) days before the Annual General Meeting. The current auditor shall be entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting and if he so wishes be heard at such Annual General Meeting.
- (D) Where the current auditor submits his resignation, or notifies the Secretary of his intention not to seek re-election as auditor, paragraph (c) hereof shall not apply.

#### **ARTICLE 17: MINUTES**

The Management Committee shall cause minutes to be made:

- (A) Of all appointments of office-bearers and members of the Committee.
- (B) Of the names of members of the Committee present at all meetings of the Organisation and of the Committee.
- (C) Of all proceedings at all meetings of the Organisation and of the Committee.

Such minutes shall be signed by the Chairman of the meeting at which the proceedings were held or by the Chairman of the next succeeding meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 18: TRUSTEES**

- (A) The Trustees shall consist of four trustees elected for a term of 3 years by a majority vote of the members of the society at the Annual General Meeting. A retiring trustee shall be eligible for re-election. Provided all such trustees are members of the Association.
- (B) All property of whatever kind belonging to the Community shall be vested in the Trustees and they shall have the custody of all deeds and documents of title relating to the property of the Community and shall be responsible for the same and shall deal with and dispose of all the property of the Community whether real or personal for the time being vested in them and the income thereof in accordance with the directions of the Management Committee provided that such directions are not in

violation of the trusts upon which the property is held.

- (C) If one trustee shall prematurely retire due to any reason then no replacement shall be made until the next annual general meeting after such retirement. If however, more than one trustee shall retire prematurely due to any reason then an extraordinary special general meeting shall be called for by the general committee within 45 days from the date of such retirement to elect new trustees in place of those retiring.

#### **ARTICLE 19: DISSOLUTION**

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Society there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to some institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Association and whose memorandum of association or constitution shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members such institution or institutions to be determined by the members of the Association at or before the time of dissolution and in default by the then Patriarch of the Armenian Catholic Rite in Rome.

#### **ARTICLE 20: AMENDMENT OF RULES**

These rules may be amended by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of members present at any Annual General Meeting at which notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given or at a Special General Meeting convened for such purpose. Provided that the Minister of the Crown for the time being administering the Charitable Collections Act, 1934, as amended, shall be notified of the amendment and such amendment being made.

#### **ARTICLE 21: EXPULSION**

- (A) A member may be expelled upon an ordinary resolution - passed at any meeting of the Management Committee, but such member may appeal against such decision at a duly convened General meeting of members.
- (B) Such right of appeal is subject to the members concerned lodging a written request with the Secretary not later than 21 days after notice of expulsion has been communicated to him.
- (C) Upon receipt of the request the Secretary shall cause a General Meeting to be convened in accordance with Article 13
- (D) At such General Meeting of members, the member may put his case and a vote shall be taken. A simple majority of members present shall be sufficient to uphold the decision of the Management Committee or to reinstate the expelled member.