

**Rules of
Hopenet SA Incorporated Association**

Rules of HopeNet SA Incorporated Association

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1. Name

The name of the incorporated association is HopeNet SA, referred to herein as 'the Association'.

2. Definitions

- 'the Committee' means the Committee of management of the Association
- 'General meeting' means a general meeting of members of the Association convened in accordance with these rules
- 'Member' means a member of the Association
- 'the Act' means the [Associations Incorporation Act 1985](#)
- 'special resolution' means a special resolution defined in the Act
- 'Month' shall mean a calendar month.

3. Purposes of the Association

The purpose of the Association is to:

- a. To promote the knowledge of Jesus Christ, his life and ongoing mission, through the work and witness of members; and,
- b. Facilitate mutual care and support of members.

The Association subscribes to the theological doctrine defined in the Uniting Church in Australia Basis of Union (1977).

4. Powers of the Association

The Association shall have all the powers conferred by section 25 of the Act.

5. Membership

5.1 Membership Types

Members of the Association can be either:

- a. Corporate

Corporate membership is available to churches or congregations recognised by the Committee as a local church; or

- b. Personal

Personal membership is available to persons who are recognised by the Committee as minister, pastor or leader in a local church.

5.2 Membership Application

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Any local church or eligible person (*See 5.1.b.*) that agrees to the Objects, Purpose and Rules of the Association may apply for membership of the Association.

Upon acceptance of the application by the Committee the applicant shall be a member of the Association.

a. Corporate

When the applicant is a local church, the local church must have held a properly constituted congregational meeting and agreed according to its own rules to apply for membership. The application must be in writing and signed by the designated leader of that congregational meeting, or delegate, for consideration by the Committee.

b. Personal

The application for membership shall be made in writing and signed by the applicant for consideration by the Committee.

5.3 Subscriptions

a. Corporate

There is no joining fee for corporate membership. Local churches are encouraged to contribute an annual amount as determined from time to time by the Committee.

b. Personal

The subscription fees for membership shall be such sum as the Committee shall determine from time to time.

c. The subscription fees shall be payable annually on 1 July or at a time that the Committee determines.

5.4 Resignations

A member may resign from membership of the Association by giving written notice to the secretary or public officer of the Association.

5.5 Expulsion of a member

- a. Subject to giving a member an opportunity to be heard or to make a written submission, the Committee may resolve to expel a member upon a charge of misconduct detrimental to the interests of the Association.
- b. Particulars of the charge shall be communicated to the member at least one month before the meeting of the Committee at which the matter will be determined.
- c. The determination of the Committee shall be communicated to the member, and in the event of an adverse determination the member shall, (subject to 5.4d below), cease to be a member 14 days after the Committee has communicated its determination to the member.
- d. It shall be open to a member to appeal the expulsion to the Association at a general meeting. The intention to appeal shall be communicated to the secretary or public officer of the Association within 14 days after the determination of the Committee has been communicated to the member.

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- e. In the event of an appeal under 5.4d above, the appellant's membership of the Association shall not be terminated unless the determination of the Committee to expel the member is upheld by the members of the Association in general meeting after the appellant has been heard by the members of the Association, and in such event membership will be terminated at the date of the general meeting at which the determination of the Committee is upheld.

5.6 Register of members

A register of members must be kept and contain:

- a. The name, postal address and email address of each member;
- b. The date on which each member was admitted to the Association;
- c. In the case of corporate membership, the name of the designated local church representative; and,
- d. If applicable, the date of and reason(s) for termination of membership.

6. The Committee

6.1 Powers and duties

- a. The affairs of the Association shall be managed and controlled by a committee which, in addition to any powers and authorities conferred by these rules, may exercise all such powers and do all such things as are within the objects of the Association, and are not by the Act or by these rules required to be done by the Association in general meeting.
- b. The Committee has the management and control of the funds and other property of the Association.
- c. The Committee shall have authority to interpret the meaning of these rules and any other matter relating to the affairs of the Association on which these rules are silent.
- d. The Committee shall appoint a public officer as required by the Act.

6.2 Appointment

- a. The Committee shall be comprised of at least three persons, being a chairperson, secretary and treasurer.
- b. A committee member shall be a natural person.
- c. The first committee of the Association shall be comprised of such persons as hold office prior to incorporation.
- d. New members may be added to the Committee by agreement of the Committee at any time, but all members are to be individually endorsed at each annual general meeting.
- e. The committee may appoint a person to fill a casual vacancy, and such a committee member shall hold office until the next annual general meeting of the association and shall be eligible for election to the committee without nomination.

6.3 Proceedings of committee

- a. The Committee shall meet together for the dispatch of business at least monthly, or as the Committee determines.

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- b. Questions arising at any meeting of the Committee shall be decided by a majority of votes, and in the event of equality of votes the chairperson shall have a casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.
- c. A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be at least one half of the members of the Committee.
- d. A member of the Committee having a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a contract or proposed contract with the Association must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the Committee as required by the Act, and shall not vote with respect to that contract or proposed contract. The member of the Committee must disclose the nature and extent of his or her interest in the contract at the next annual general meeting of the Association.

6.4 Disqualification of committee members

The office of a committee member shall become vacant if a committee member is:

- Disqualified from being a committee member by the Act;
- Expelled as a member under these rules;
- Permanently incapacitated by ill health; or,
- Absent without apology from more than four meetings in a financial year.

7. The seal

The Association shall have a common seal upon which its corporate name shall appear in legible characters.

The seal shall not be used without the express authorisation of the Committee, and every use of the seal shall be recorded in the minutes of the Association.

The affixing of the seal shall be witnessed by either the chairperson or the secretary.

8. General meetings

8.1 Annual general meetings

- a. The Committee shall call an annual general meeting in accordance with the Act and these rules.
- b. The first annual general meeting shall be held within 18 months after the incorporation of the Association, and thereafter within five months after the end of its financial year.
- c. The order of the business at the meeting shall include:
 - i. The confirmation of the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since that meeting
 - ii. The consideration of the accounts and reports of the Committee and the auditor's report when required
 - iii. The endorsement of committee members
 - iv. The appointment of auditors as required - see rule 11.5

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v. Any other business requiring consideration by the Association in general meeting.

8.2 Special general meeting

- a. The Committee may call a special general meeting of the Association at any time.
- b. Upon a requisition in writing of not less than 5%, of the total number of corporate members of the Association, the Committee shall, within one month of the receipt of the requisition, convene a special general meeting for the purpose specified in the requisition.
- c. Every requisition for a special general meeting shall be signed by the designated representatives of the relevant corporate members and shall state the purpose of the meeting.
- d. If a special general meeting is not convened within one month, as required by 8.2b above, the requisitionists, or at least 50% of their number, may convene a special general meeting. Such a meeting shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as practical as a meeting convened by the Committee, and for this purpose the Committee shall ensure that the requisitionists are supplied free of charge with particulars of the members entitled to receive a notice of meeting. The reasonable expenses of convening and conducting such a meeting shall be borne by the Association.

8.3 Notice of general meetings

- a. Subject to 8.3b, at least 14 days' notice of any general meeting shall be given to members. The notice shall set out where and when the meeting will be held, and particulars of the nature and order of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- b. Notice of a meeting at which a special resolution is to be proposed shall be given at least 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- c. A notice may be given by the Association to any member by serving the member with the notice personally, by email, or by sending it by post to the address appearing in the register of members. (See rule 5.5.)
- d. Where a notice is sent by post:
 - i. The service is effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting a letter or packet containing the notice, and
 - ii. Unless the contrary is proved, service will be taken to have been effected at the time at which the letter or packet would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

8.4 Proceedings at general meetings

- a. Ten members present personally or by proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any general meeting.
- b. If within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting a quorum of members is not present, a meeting convened upon the requisition of members shall lapse. In any other case, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within 30 minutes of the time appointed for the meeting the members present shall form a quorum.
- c. Subject to 8.4d, the chairperson shall preside as chairperson at a general meeting of the Association.

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- d. If the chairperson is not present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, or he or she is present but declines to take or retires from the chair, the members may choose a committee member or one of their own number to be the chairperson of that meeting.

8.5 Voting at general meetings

- a. Subject to these rules, every member of the Association has only one vote at a meeting of the Association.
- b. Subject to these rules, a question for decision at a general meeting, other than a special resolution, must be determined by a majority of members who vote in person or, where proxies are allowed, by proxy, at that meeting.
- c. Unless a poll is demanded by at least five members, a question for decision at a general meeting must be determined by a show of hands.
- d. A member being a body corporate shall be entitled to appoint one person, who shall not be a member of the Association, to represent it at a particular general meeting or at all general meetings of the Association. That person shall be appointed by the corporate member by a resolution of its board, which may be authenticated under its seal. Such a person shall be deemed to be a member of the Association for all purposes until the authority to represent the corporate member is revoked.

8.6 Poll at general meetings

- a. If a poll is demanded by at least five members, it must be conducted in a manner specified by the person presiding and the result of the poll is the resolution of the meeting on that question.
- b. A poll demanded for the election of a person presiding or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately, but any other poll may be conducted at any time before the close of the meeting.

8.7 Special and ordinary resolutions

- a. A special resolution as defined in [the Act](#).
- b. An ordinary resolution is a resolution passed by a simple majority at a general meeting.

8.8 Proxies

A member shall be entitled to appoint in writing a natural person who is also a member of the Association to be their proxy, and attend and vote at any general meeting of the Association.

9. Minutes

- a. Proper minutes of all proceedings of general meetings of the Association and of meetings of the Committee, shall be entered within one month after the relevant meeting in electronic form set up for the purpose.
- b. The minutes kept pursuant to this rule must be confirmed by the members of the Association or the members of the Committee (as relevant) at a subsequent meeting.
- c. Where minutes are entered and confirmed they shall, until the contrary is proved, be evidence that the meeting was convened and duly held, that all proceedings held at the

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meeting shall be deemed to have been duly held, and that all appointments made at a meeting shall be deemed to be valid.

10. Financial reporting

10.1 Financial year

The first financial year of the Association shall be the period ending on the next 30 June following incorporation, and thereafter a period of 12 months commencing on 1 July and ending on 30 June of each year.

10.2 Accounts to be kept

The Association shall keep and retain such accounting records as are necessary to correctly record and explain the financial transactions and financial position of the Association in accordance with the Act.

11. Prohibition against securing profits for members

The income and capital of the Association shall be applied exclusively to the promotion of its objects and no portion shall be paid or distributed directly or indirectly to members or their associates except as bona fide remuneration of a member for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Association.

12. Winding up

The Association may be wound up in the manner provided for in the Act.

13. Application of surplus assets

- a. If after the winding up of the Association there remains 'surplus assets' as defined in the Act, such surplus assets shall be distributed to any organisation which has similar objects and has rules which prohibit the distribution of its assets and income to its members. The Association may determine to distribute surplus assets to nominated charities.
- b. Such organisation or organisations shall be identified and determined by a resolution of members in general meeting.

14. Alteration of Rules

These rules may be altered (including an alteration to the Association's name) by special resolution of the members of the Association. This includes rescision or replacement by substitute rules.

The alteration shall be registered with Consumer and Business Services, Corporate Affairs Commission, as required by the Act.

The registered rules shall bind the Association and every member to the same extent as if they have respectively signed and sealed them and agreed to be bound by all of the provisions thereof.

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An alteration to a rule may be made by special resolution of the Association.

An alteration to the rules comes into force at the time that the alteration is passed. This does not apply to an alteration to the name of the Association which does not come into force until registered by Consumer and Business Services, Corporate Services Commission.