

# ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

## OBJECTS and RULES – March 2011

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## Part 1.1 Preliminary

### 1 (a) Name and Affiliations

- (a) The name of the Association shall be “the Anthroposophical Society in Australia” (the Society).
- (b) The Society considers itself to be affiliated with the General Anthroposophical Society which has its centre at the Goetheanum, Dornach, Switzerland and regards the School of Spiritual Science thereof as a centre for its activity.
- (c) The Legislation Act 2001(A.C.T) applies to these rules in the same way as it would if they were an instrument made under the Act.

### 1 (b) Definitions:

Unless the context indicates to the contrary, the following terms have the following meanings:

- a. The “Society” means the Anthroposophical Society in Australia
- b. The “General Anthroposophical Society” or GAS means the General Anthroposophical Society which has its centre at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland
- c. The “General Secretary” is the Society’s official Australian representative to the Executive Council of the General Anthroposophical Society in Dornach and to the Anthroposophical Movement worldwide.
- d. “Secretary” means Public Officer.
- e. “Member” means a member of both the Society in Australia and the General Anthroposophical Society.
- f. A “contributing” or “financial” member is a member who makes an annual financial contribution to further the work of the Society in Australia and the General Anthroposophical Society.
- g. “Branch” means a regional subset of the Society in Australia.
- h. “Group” means a group of members of the General Anthroposophical Society formed on the basis of locality or subject.
- i. The “Committee” means the Management Group which acts as the Executive Body of the Society and is the body responsible for the management of the Society’s activities generally and at the National level.
- j. Any reference to the masculine gender includes a reference to the feminine gender and vice versa;
- k. Any reference to the singular number includes a reference to the plural number and vice versa.
- l. The “financial year” means the year ending on 31 December.
- m. The “Act” means the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (A.C.T)
- n. The “Regulation” means the Associations Incorporation Regulation 1991

## Part 1.2 Membership

### 2 Membership qualifications

A person is qualified to be a member if –

- (a) the person is a member of the General Anthroposophical Society; or
- (b) the person is a person mentioned in the Act, section 21 (2) (a) or (b) of the Act and has not ceased to be a member of the Society at any time after the incorporation of it under the Act.

### 3 Application for membership

- (1) Application for membership of the Society shall be made in the form set out in Annexure 3, through a local branch or group, and lodged with the General Secretary together with an application for membership of the General Anthroposophical Society if such membership has not previously been obtained.
- (2) An applicant becomes entitled to membership of the Society at the moment membership of the General Anthroposophical Society is granted.
- (3) Upon approval of membership, the new member must be notified of the acceptance as soon as practicable after that decision and payment be requested within forty-two (42) days after receipt of the notification of the contribution requested under these rules.
- (4) For applicants already members of the General Anthroposophical Society the General Secretary shall as soon as practicable refer the application for membership to the committee which must decide to approve or reject it or with cause defer it but for no longer than six (6) weeks after which without such decision it shall be deemed rejected.
- (5) The General Secretary must cause the nominee's name to be entered in the register of members forthwith upon approval.
- (6) Members shall do nothing knowingly or willfully to bring the Society into disrepute.

### 4 Membership entitlements not transferable

A right, privilege or obligation that a person has because of being a member of the Society –

- (a) cannot be transferred or transmitted to another person; and
- (b) terminates on cessation of the person's membership

## 5 Cessation of membership

- (1) A person ceases to be a member of the Society if the person:
  - (a) ceases to be a member of the General Anthroposophical Society for whatever reason; or
  - (b) resigns in writing from membership of the Society; or
  - (c) transfers membership to another country; or
  - (d) is expelled from the Society or branch or group thereof; or
  - (e) fails to renew membership of the Society for a period of three years; or
  - (f) is deceased
- (2) any person, who ceases to be a member pursuant to (b) or (d) above but remains a member of the General Anthroposophical Society may reapply once but shall not be admitted to membership of the Society except by the unanimous decision of the committee
- (3) If a person ceases to be a member, the General Secretary must cause an appropriate entry to be made in the register of members recording the date the member ceased to be a member.

## 6 Resignation of membership

- (1) Resignation of membership of the Society shall be notified by a written, declaration signed by the member to the General Secretary, effective on receipt or otherwise as specified therein.
- (2) In the event of a member resigning also from the General Anthroposophical Society, or dying, the membership card shall be returned to the General Secretary.

## 7 Financial contributions etc

- (1) The annual membership contribution to the Society shall be determined by the committee, in consultation with the Branches and Groups.
- (2) The annual membership contribution is payable-
  - (a) except as provided by paragraph (b) – before 1 April in each calendar year; or
  - (b) if a person becomes a member on or after 1 April in any calendar year – within six (6) weeks of their application being accepted.

## 8 Members' liabilities

The liability of a member to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the association is limited to two dollars (\$2.00).

## 9 Disciplining of members

- (1) A member may be expelled from the Society by resolution of the committee without stating the grounds but in compliance with the Act for a breach of these rules, the Act or opposition to the Society's objects
- (2) Subject to the Act there is no further right in these rules concerning the application of the principles of natural justice before a resolution pursuant to 9 (1) above is made nor to appeal after such a resolution is made nor is there any other rule for the discipline of members.

## 10 Grievance Procedure

- (1) Where there is a dispute between members of the Society, or between a member, or members and the Society, before any further step is taken a discussion shall be convened between those involved who will be encouraged to try genuinely to see the other's point of view.
- (2) If resolution is not achieved by this means, after twenty-eight (28) days both parties may enter a mediation process which may involve a number of meetings.
- (3) The Committee will appoint a panel of individuals with mediation skills, from within the membership, for this purpose if required by the parties.
- (4) Where the members are unable to resolve a dispute, they may wish to use the services of a community-based service, e.g. the Conflict Resolution Centre Inc. in the ACT.
- (5) In the absence of the parties' agreement as to the time and place of the discussion specified in (1) above the General Secretary shall make an appointment for this purpose endeavouring to comply with the reasonable convenience of the parties and giving not less than seven (7) days notice whereupon the failure of either party to appear at such appointment there shall be deemed compliance with this rule from that time.

## Part 1.3 Committee

### 11 Powers of committee

The committee, subject to the Act, the regulation, these rules, and to any resolution passed by the Society in general meeting –

- (a) controls and manages the affairs of the Society; and
- (b) may exercise all functions that may be exercised by the Society other than those functions that are required by these rules to be exercised by the Society in general meeting; and
- (c) has power to perform all acts and do all things that appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the Society.

### 12 Constitution and membership

(1) The committee consists of –

- (a) The General Secretary of the Society; and
- (b) the office bearers of the Society; and
- (c) at least one (1) ordinary committee member

(b) and (c) of whom must be elected under clause 13 below or appointed in accordance with subsection (4) hereof.

(2) The office bearers of the Society are-

- (a) The chair person
- (b) the treasurer
- (c) the public officer

(3) Each member of the committee holds office, subject to these rules, until the conclusion of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) annual general meeting following the date of the member's election, but is eligible for re-election, or appointment for such shorter period as is affirmed by the members in General Meeting.

(4) If there is a vacancy in the membership of the committee, the committee may appoint a member of the association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed holds office, subject to these rules, until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of the appointment.

### 13 Appointment / Election of committee members

- (1) Committee members shall be nominated by the committee in consultation with the Branch Secretaries and the general membership and confirmed at a General Meeting.
- (2) Committee members, the General Secretary exempted, are appointed for three (3) years and are eligible for re-nomination and re-election.
- (3) In the event of the number of committee members falling below four (4) and the committee failing to increase its numbers, nominations for committee members shall be made in writing and delivered to the Public Officer not less than forty two (42) days before the date fixed for the AGM at which an election is to take place. Any financial member shall be eligible for nomination to the committee provided his/her signature is counter-signed by at least seven (7) other financial members. In this case subsection (4) will apply.
- (4)
  - (a) Nominations of candidates for election as office bearers of the Society or ordinary committee members –
    - (i) must be made in writing, signed by seven (7) members of the Society and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the nomination form) and,
    - (ii) must be given to the Public Officer of the Society not less than Forty-two (42) days before the date fixed for the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.
  - (b) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected.
  - (c) If insufficient further nominations are received, any vacant positions remaining on the committee are taken to be vacancies.
  - (d) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the people nominated are taken to be elected.
  - (e) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot must be held.
  - (f) The ballot for the election of office bearers and ordinary committee members must be conducted at the annual general meeting in the way the committee may direct.



- (g) A person is not eligible to simultaneously hold more than 1 position on the committee.
- (5) Each member of the committee shall within six (6) weeks of submitting a resignation or ceasing to hold office deliver to that officer's successor all books, papers and other property of the Society possessed by such former officer.

## 14 General Secretary

- (1) (a) The General Secretary shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting by secret ballot and shall hold office for three (3) years as an ex-officio member of the committee; and
  - (i) may be reappointed for a further three years by affirmation of the members at an AGM whereupon should there be any dissent, the appointment shall be put to a vote on a show of hands, a simple majority sufficing for the affirmation to thereupon be effective forthwith; and
  - (ii) if reappointment is not affirmed at the AGM then the existing General Secretary to continue in a caretaker role until an election is held as per (3) below.
- (b) After two (2) terms of three years, the office of General Secretary becomes vacant and is filled following the procedure in (3) below. No General Secretary can hold office for more than three (3) terms (9 years).
- (2) The work of the General Secretary includes:
  - (a) Faithfully representing to the members of the Society the interests and intentions of the General Anthroposophical Society centred at the Goetheanum, and the world-wide movement; and
  - (b) Faithfully representing to the Executive (Vorstand) and Section Leaders of the General Anthroposophical Society and the movement world-wide the interests and intentions of the members of the Society, as expressed through their communications to the General Secretary; and
  - (c) The maintenance of regular contact with the local Branches and Groups, to know them and to be known by them.
  - (d) The responsibility for keeping a register of members
- (3) Nominations for General Secretary shall be the result of a process initiated by the committee on behalf of the members of the Society and in consultation with the members, Branches, Groups and the Executive Council (Vorstand) of the General Anthroposophical Society in Dornach after which such nominee(s) shall proceed to election in general meeting.

- (4) Appointment of the General Secretary must be approved by the Executive of the General Anthroposophical Society in Dornach though nothing done by the General Secretary before such approval shall be rendered void, voidable, or otherwise invalid by lack of such confirmation if diligently sought upon appointment

## 15 Public Officer

(1) The public officer of the Society must, as soon as is practicable after being appointed as public officer, notify the Society of his or her address.

(2) The public officer must keep minutes of-

- (a) all elections and appointments of office bearers and ordinary committee members; and
- (b) the names of members of the committee present at a committee meeting or a general meeting; and
- (c) all proceedings at committee meetings and general meetings.

(3) Minutes of proceedings at a meeting must be signed by the person presiding at the meeting or by the person presiding at the next succeeding meeting.

## 16 Treasurer

(1) The treasurer of the Society must –

- (a) collect and receive all amounts owing to the Society and make all payments authorized by the Society; and
- (b) keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the Society with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the Society.
- (c) cause to be prepared financial accounts of the Society to be presented at each AGM.

(2) The treasurer, in consultation with the Branches and Groups within Australia, shall submit to the General Anthroposophical Society an annual contribution, in consultation with the Executive at the Goetheanum in Dornach.

## 17 Vacancies

(1) For these rules, a vacancy in the office of a member of the committee happens if the member –

- (a) dies; or
- (b) ceases to be a member of the Society; or the GAS; or
- (c) resigns the office; or

- (d) is removed from office under section 18 (removal of committee members); or
- (e) becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Corporations Act; or
- (f) suffers from mental or physical incapacity; or
- (g) is disqualified from office under the Act, section 63 (1); or
- (h) is absent without the consent of the committee from all meetings of the committee held during a period of 3 months.

## 18 Removal of committee members

The Society in general meeting may by resolution, subject to the Act, section 50, remove any member of the committee from the office of member of the committee before the end of the member's term of office.

## 19 Committee meetings and quorum

- (1) The committee must meet at least five (5) times in each calendar year at the place and time that the committee may decide.
- (2) Additional meetings of the committee may be called by any member of the committee.
- (3) Oral or written notice of a meeting of the committee must be given by the public officer to each member of the committee at least forty-eight (48) hours (or any other period that may be unanimously agreed upon by the members of the committee) before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.
- (4) Notice of a meeting given under subsection (3) must specify the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting and no business other than that business may be transacted at the meeting, except business that the committee members present at the meeting unanimously agree to treat as urgent business.
- (5) Any three (3) members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the meeting.
- (6) No business may be transacted by the committee unless a quorum is present and, if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week.
- (7) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting is dissolved.

- (8) At meetings of the committee the chair person or, in the absence of the chair, 1 of the remaining members of the committee presides.
- (9) The assignment of duties within the committee and its manner of conducting business are to be regulated by the committee itself.
- (10) The committee may employ any person or company to assist it to administer or manage the affairs of the Society.
- (11) Any paid position shall be made only within the previously accepted applicable budget amount or in consultation with Branches and is subject to ratification at the next general meeting.

## 20 Delegation by committee to subcommittee

- (1) The committee may, in writing, delegate to one (1) or more subcommittees (consisting of the member or members of the Society that the committee considers appropriate) the exercise of the functions of the committee that are specified in the instrument, other than –
  - (a) this power of delegation; and
  - (b) a function that is imposed on the committee by the Act, by any Territory law, or by resolution of the Society in general meeting.
- (2) A function, the exercise of which has been delegated to a subcommittee under this section may, while the delegation remains unrevoked, be exercised from time to time by the subcommittee in accordance with the terms of the delegation.
- (3) A delegation under this section may be made subject to any conditions or limitations about the exercise of any function, or about time or circumstances, that may be specified in the instrument of delegation.
- (4) Despite any delegation under this section, the committee may continue to exercise any function delegated.
- (5) Any act or thing done or suffered by a subcommittee acting in the exercise of a delegation under this section has the same force and effect as it would have if it had been done or suffered by the committee.
- (6) The committee may, in writing, revoke wholly or in part any delegation under this section.
- (7) A subcommittee may meet and adjourn as it considers appropriate.

## 21 Voting and decisions

- (1) Questions arising at a meeting of the committee or of any subcommittee appointed by the committee are decided preferably by consensus or by a majority of the votes of the members of the committee or subcommittee present at the meeting.
- (2) Each member present at the committee or subcommittee appointed by the committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one (1) vote but, if the votes on any question are equal, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.

## 22 Indemnity for committee and subcommittees

- (1) Any acts done by any meeting of the committee or by any sub-committee thereof shall notwithstanding that it shall afterwards be discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any member or members of the committee or the sub-committee or that any such member or members were disqualified be as valid as if every such member had duly been appointed and was qualified to be a member of the committee or sub-committee as the case may be.
- (2) No member of the committee shall be liable for the acts or defaults of any other member of the committee or any loss occasioned thereby, unless occasioned by their willful default or by their willful acquiescence.
- (3) The committee and each of its members shall be indemnified by the Society for all liabilities and costs incurred by them in the proper performance of the functions and duties, other than as a result of their willful default.

## Part 1.4 General meetings

### 23 Annual general meetings – holding of

- (1) With the exception of the first annual general meeting of the Society, the Society must, at least once in each calendar year and within five (5) months after the end of each financial year of the Society, call an annual general meeting of its members.
- (2) The Society must hold its first annual general meeting –
  - (a) within eighteen (18) months after its incorporation under the Act; and
  - (b) within five (5) months after the end of the first financial year of the Society.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) have effect subject to the powers of the registrar-general, under the Act, section 120 in relation to extensions of time.

### 24 Annual general meetings – calling of and business

- (1) The annual general meeting of the Society must, subject to the Act, be called at the place and time that the committee considers appropriate.
- (2) In addition to any other business that may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting is –
  - (a) to confirm the minutes of the last annual general meeting and of any general meeting held since that meeting; and
  - (b) to receive from the committee reports on the activities of the Society during the last financial year; and
  - (c) to elect or confirm members of the committee, including office bearers; and
  - (d) to receive and consider the statement of accounts and reports that are required to be submitted to members under the Act, section 73 (1).
- (3) An annual general meeting must be specified as such in the notice calling it in accordance with section 26 (Notice).
- (4) An annual general meeting must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this part.

## 25 General meetings – calling of

- (1) The committee may, whenever it considers appropriate, call a general meeting of the Society.
- (2) The committee must, on the requisition in writing of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total number of financial members, call a general meeting of the Society.
- (3) A requisition of members for a general meeting –
  - (a) must state the purpose or purposes of the meeting; and
  - (b) must be signed by the members making the requisition; and
  - (c) must be lodged with the public officer; and
  - (d) may consist of several documents in a similar form, each signed by one (1) or more of the members making the requisition.
- (4) If the committee fails to call a general meeting within one (1) month after the date when a requisition of financial members for the meeting is lodged with the public officer, any one or more of the members who made the requisition may call a general meeting to be held not later than three (3) months after that date.
- (5) A general meeting called by a member or members mentioned in subsection (4) must be called as nearly as is practicable in the same way as general meetings are called by the committee and any member who thereby incurs expense is entitled to be reimbursed by the association for any reasonable expense so incurred.

## 26 Notice

- (1) Except if the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the public officer must, at least twenty one (21) days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, send by prepaid post, email or by hand to each member at the member's address appearing in the register of members, a notice specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.
- (2) If the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the association, the public officer must, at least thirty-five (35) days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, send notice to each member in the way provided in subsection (1) specifying, in addition to the matter required under that subsection, the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.

- (3) No business other than that specified in the notice calling a general meeting may be transacted at the meeting except, for an annual general meeting, business that may be transacted under clause 24 (2).
- (4) A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting shall give written notice of that business to the Public Officer who must include that business in the next notice calling a general meeting given after the receipt of notice from the member.
- (5) The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

## 27 General meetings – procedure and quorum

- (1) No item of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of financial members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering the item.
- (2) Twenty-five (25) members present in person (who are entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.
- (3) If within thirty (30) minutes after the appointed time for the start of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting if called on the requisition of members is dissolved and in any other case stands adjourned to the same day in the following week at the same time and (unless another place is specified at the time of adjournment by the person presiding at the meeting or communicated by written notice to members given the day before to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.
- (4) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within thirty (30) minutes after the time appointed for the start of the meeting, the members present (being not less than three (3)) constitute a quorum.

## 28 Presiding member

The committee will appoint a person to preside over the meeting at each general meeting of the association.

## 29 Adjournment

- (1) The person presiding at a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of a majority of the financial members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business may be transacted at an adjourned meeting other



than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.

- (2) If a general meeting is adjourned for fourteen (14) days or more, the secretary must give written or oral notice of the adjourned meeting to each financial member of the association stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- (3) Except as provided in subsections (1) and (2), notice of an adjournment of a general meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting is not required to be given.

### 30 Making of decisions

- (1) All business shall be decided by a simple majority of votes howsoever cast. All decisions shall be recorded in the minutes.
- (2) Each member at a general meeting has one (1) vote.
- (3) All general meetings shall be chaired by a chairperson appointed by the management group and any chairperson shall only have a deliberative vote.
- (4) Votes shall be exercised as follows:
  - (a) At general meetings voting shall be by show of hands, by postal vote or, at the request of the majority present or on demand of the chairperson, by secret ballot, and on any secret ballot each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
  - (b) Unless otherwise required by these rules, all questions shall be determined by a simple majority of those present and voting at the general meeting (including any postal votes received).
- (5) A question arising at a general meeting of the Society is to be decided on a show of hands and, unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded, a declaration by the person presiding that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the Society, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.
- (6) At a general meeting of the Society, a poll may be demanded by the person presiding or by not less than three (3) members present in person.

- (7) If the poll is demanded at a general meeting, the poll must be taken –
  - (a) immediately if the poll relates to the election of the person to preside at the meeting or to the question of an adjournment; or
  - (b) in any other case – in the way and at the time before the close of the meeting that the person presiding directs, and the resolution of the poll on the matter is taken to be the resolution of the poll on the matter.

## 31 Voting

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), on any question arising at a general meeting of the Society a member has one (1) vote only.
- (2) All votes must be given personally or by post.
- (3) If the votes on a question at a general meeting are equal, the person presiding is entitled to exercise a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) or casting vote.
- (4) A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the Society unless he or she has paid the financial contribution for the then current or the immediately preceding year.

## Part 1.5 Miscellaneous

### 32 Funds – source

- (1) The funds of the Society must be derived from annual contributions of members, donations and, subject to any resolution passed by the Society in general meeting and subject to the Act, section 14, any other sources that the committee decides.
- (2) All money received by the Society must be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of the Society's bank account.
- (3) The Society must, as soon as practicable after receiving any money, issue an appropriate receipt.

### 33 Funds – management

- (1) Subject to any resolution passed by the Society in general meeting, the funds of the Society must be used for the objects of the Society in the way the committee decides.
- (2) All cheques, drafts, bills or exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments must be signed by any two (2) members of the committee or employees of the Society, being members of the committee or employees authorized to do so by the committee.

### 34 Alteration of objects and rules

Neither the objects of the Society mentioned in the Act, section 29 nor these rules may be altered except in accordance with the Act.

### 35 Common seal

- (1) The common seal of the Society must be kept in the custody of the public officer.
- (2) The common seal must not be attached to any instrument except by the authority of the committee and the attaching of the common seal must be attested by the signatures either of two (2) members of the committee or one (1) member of the committee and of the public officer.

### 36 Custody of books

Subject to the Act, the regulation and these rules, the public officer must keep in his or her custody or under his or her control all records, books, and other documents pertaining to the Society.

**37**    **Inspection of books**

The records, books and other documents of the Society must be open to inspection at a place in the ACT, free of charge, by a financial member of the Society at any reasonable hour.

**38**    **Service of notice**

For these rules, the association may serve a notice on a member by sending it by post to the member at the member's address shown in the register of members.

**39**    **Surplus property**

In the event of the dissolution or winding up of the Society, the General Meeting must determine the method of liquidation and the application of assets in accordance with the objects of the Society and in compliance with the Act, section 92 (2).

## Part 2 Annexure 1

### OBJECTS of the ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

- a) To form a national body to which all members of the General Anthroposophical Society may join including such members as may be represented in branches groups and other Anthroposophical Organisations throughout Australia.
- b) To nurture the life of the soul both in individual and human society on the basis of a true knowledge of the spiritual world.
- c) Further to pursue the objects and purposes mutatis mutandis of the General Anthroposophical Society centred in Dornach Switzerland as annexed hereto and entitled "Principles of the Anthroposophical Society".
- d) To publish by periodical journal or otherwise whatsoever such literature or other material in pursuit of the above objects as it may deem expedient from time to time.
- e) To raise by donation, membership contributions and other activities including but not limited to seminars, exhibitions, performance, lectures and courses, such funds as it may require in furtherance of these objects but always subject to its constitution, the Act and rules.

## Part 3 Annexure 2

### PRINCIPLES of the ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

- 1: The Anthroposophical Society is to be an association of people whose will it is to nurture the life of the soul, both in the individual and in human society, on the basis of a true knowledge of the spiritual world.
- 2: The persons gathered at the Goetheanum in Dornach at Christmas, 1923, both the individuals and the groups represented, form the nucleus of the Society. They are convinced that there exists in our time a genuine science of the spiritual world, elaborated for years past, and in important particulars already published: and that the civilisation of today is lacking the cultivation of such a science. This cultivation is to be the task of the Anthroposophical Society. It will endeavour to fulfil this task by making the anthroposophical spiritual science cultivated at the Goetheanum in Dornach the

centre of its activities, together with all that results from this for brotherhood in human relationships and for the moral and religious as well as the artistic and cultural life.<sup>1</sup>

3: The persons gathered in Dornach as the nucleus of the Society recognize the view and endorse the view of the leadership at the Goetheanum (represented by the Executive Council (Vorstand) formed at the Foundation Meeting): ‘Anthroposophy, as fostered at the Goetheanum, leads to results which can serve every human being as a stimulus to spiritual life, whatever his nation, social standing or religion. They can lead to a social life genuinely built on brotherly love. No special degree of academic learning is required to make them one’s own and to found one’s life upon them, but only an open-minded human nature. Research into these results however, as well as competent evaluation of them, depends upon spiritual-scientific training, which is to be acquired step by step. These results are in their own way as exact as the results of genuine natural science. When they attain general recognition in the same way as these, they will bring about comparable progress in all spheres of life, not only in the spiritual but also in the practical realm.

4: The Anthroposophical Society is in no sense a secret society but is entirely public. Anyone can become a member, without regard to nationality, social standing, religion, scientific or artistic conviction, who considers as justified the existence of an institution such as the Goetheanum in Dornach, in its capacity as a School of Spiritual Science. The Anthroposophical Society rejects any kind of sectarian activity. Party politics it considers not to be within its task.

5: The Anthroposophical Society sees the School of Spiritual Science in Dornach as a centre for its activity. The School will be composed of three classes. Members of the Society will be admitted to the School on their own application after a period of membership to be determined by the leadership at the Goetheanum. They enter in this way the first class of the School of Spiritual Science. Admission to the second or third classes<sup>2</sup> takes place when the person requesting this is deemed eligible by the leadership at the Goetheanum.

6: Every member of the Anthroposophical Society has the right to attend all lectures, performances and meetings arranged by the Society, under conditions to be announced by the Executive Council.

7: The organising of the School of Spiritual Science is, to begin with, the responsibility of Rudolf Steiner, who will appoint his collaborators and his possible successor.

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<sup>1</sup> The Anthroposophical Society is in continuity with the Society founded in 1912. It would like, however, to create an independent point of departure, in keeping with the true spirit of the present time, for the objects established at that time.”

<sup>2</sup> (these have not yet been established)

8: All publications of the Society shall be public, in the same sense as are those of other public societies.<sup>3</sup> The publications of the School of Spiritual Science will form no exception as regards this public character: however, the leadership of the School reserves the right to deny in advance the validity of any judgment on these publications which is not based on the same training from which they have been derived. Consequently they will regard as justified no judgment which is not based on an appropriate preliminary training, as accords with common practice in the recognized scientific world. Thus the publications of the School of Spiritual Science will bear the following note: 'Printed as manuscript for members of the School of Spiritual Science, Goetheanum,...class. No one is considered competent to judge the contents, who has not acquired - through the School itself or in a manner recognized by the School is equivalent - the requisite preliminary knowledge. Other opinions will be disregarded, to the extent that the authors of such works will enter into no discussion about them'.

9: The purpose of the Anthroposophical Society will be the furtherance of spiritual research: that of the School of Spiritual Science will be this research itself. A dogmatic stand in any field whatsoever is to be excluded from the Anthroposophical Society.

10: The Anthroposophical Society shall hold a regular General Meeting at the Goetheanum each year, at which the Executive Council will present a full Report with accounting. The agenda for this meeting shall be communicated by the Executive Council to all members, together with the invitation, six weeks before the meeting. The Executive Council may call special meetings and fix the agenda for them. Invitations to such meetings shall be sent to members three weeks in advance. Motions proposed by individual members or groups of members shall be submitted one week before the General Meeting.

11: Members may join together in smaller or larger groups on any basis of locality or subject. The seat of the Anthroposophical Society is at the Goetheanum, whence the Executive Council shall bring to the attention of the members or groups of members what it considers to be the task of the Society. The Executive Council communicates with officials elected or appointed by the various groups. Admission of members will be the concern of the individual groups; the certificate of membership shall, however, be placed

before the Executive Council in Dornach and be signed by them out of their confidence in the officials of the groups. In general, every member should join a group. Only those for whom it is quite impossible to find entry to a group should apply to Dornach for membership.

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<sup>3</sup> The conditions under which one acquires training have also been made public, and their publication will be continued.

12: Membership dues shall be fixed by the individual groups; each group shall, however, submit 15 Swiss Francs<sup>4</sup> for each of its members to the central leadership of the Society at the Goetheanum.

13: Each working group formulates its own statutes, but these must not be incompatible with the Statutes of the General Anthroposophical Society.

14: The organ of the Society is the weekly 'Das Goetheanum', which for this purpose is provided with a supplement<sup>5</sup> containing the official communications of the Society. This enlarged edition of 'Das Goetheanum' will be supplied to members of the Anthroposophical Society only.

15: The Founding Executive Council will be:

President:	Dr Rudolf Steiner
Vice-President:	Albert Steffen
Recorder:	Dr Ita Wegman
Members:	Marie Steiner Dr Elisabeth Vreede
Secretary and Treasurer:	Dr Guenther Wachsmuth

#### Notes

The *Principles of the Anthroposophical Society* were given to the members by Dr Rudolf Steiner at the Foundation Meeting of Christmas 1923 as the basis for the constitution of the Anthroposophical Society and the School of Spiritual Science incorporated within it. They describe the basis of the work of and interaction within a society arising from the spiritual impulses of our time.

The *Statutes of the General Anthroposophical Society* meet the legal requirements for publicly recognized associations. On the basis of the Principles and Statutes, the Society can undertake the continuously renewed endeavour to fulfil its task: "the cultivation of true esotericism in all openness"<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> At the General Meeting at Easter 1990 this was raised from 100 to 125 Swiss Francs – 300 Francs for those attached directly to Dornach.

<sup>5</sup> for English-speaking members, Anthroposophy World Wide 10 times a year contains translations of the supplement.

<sup>6</sup> Rudolf Steiner, GA 260



## Part 4 Annexure 3

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE GENERAL ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY AND ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

I would like to become a member of the General Anthroposophical Society through the "Anthroposophical Society in Australia".

PLEASE PRINT

First/Christian/Given Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname/Family name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & area code: home: \_\_\_\_\_ work: \_\_\_\_\_

mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I was born on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at (place) \_\_\_\_\_

My occupation is: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to belong to the \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in Australia

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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This application was received by \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of the

\_\_\_\_\_ Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in Australia.

Signature of designated office bearer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

After signature, this form should be forwarded to the General Secretary  
Anthroposophical Society in Australia.