

# CONSTITUTION

(As Amended 6 July 2018)

1. The Association shall be called the “Australasian Law Academics Association”.
2. The objects of the Association shall be:
  - (a) facilitate best practice in law teaching, research and scholarship by law academics in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific (‘Australasia’);
  - (b) promote collaboration and cooperation by Australasian law academics with one another, with law academics elsewhere, and with academic, professional, law reform, government and other organisations and institutions;
  - (c) provide assistance and support to Australasian law academics in planning and managing their academic careers; and
  - (d) represent the interests of Australasian law academics in discussions and debates about law teaching, research and scholarship.
- 2A. The income and property of the Association, however derived, shall be employed solely towards the promotion of the Association's objects and no part of that income and property shall be paid or transferred by way of profit to the members of the Association. However, nothing in this Constitution is to be taken as preventing the following:
  - (a) the payment in good faith of reasonable remuneration to any officer or employee of the Association, or to any member of the Association, in return for any services actually rendered to the Association;
  - (b) the payment of interest on any loans by members to the Association at a rate not exceeding the reference rate quoted by the State Bank of New South Wales, and if the State Bank of New South Wales is no longer in operation at the reference rate quoted by the financial institution which is the successor in title to the assets of the State Bank of New South Wales, for business loans;
  - (c) the payment of a market rent or less for premises demised or let by any member to the Association.
3. Membership shall be open to, by invitation or application:
  - (a) all Deans and teachers of law in tertiary institutions and in Practical Legal Training Courses in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands;
  - (b) all schools and faculties (however described) within tertiary institutions and Practical Legal Training Courses in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands employing teachers of law;”
  - (c) all law librarians in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands who are graduates in law or permanently in charge of a law library in a tertiary institution;

- (d) all persons who have duties or interests which are relevant to legal education in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands;
  - (e) such persons as may, subject to any direction given by a General Meeting, be admitted by the General Executive;
  - (f) such persons who have given distinguished service to the Association or legal education as may be elected as honorary life members at an Annual General Meeting.
- 4.
- (a) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a General Executive. Subject to the control of any General Meeting, the General Executive may take any action on behalf of the Association which, in the opinion of the General Executive, will further the objects of the Association;
  - (b) The members of the General Executive shall be a President, a Chairperson, an immediate past Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson, a Conference Secretary, a Conference Treasurer, a General Secretary, a General Treasurer and five other members; and, as long as the *Legal Education Review* and *Journal of the Australasian Law Teachers Association* is published and supported by ALTA, the Editor-in-Chief shall be an ex-officio member.
  - (c) Subject to cl. 5(a) the funds of the Association shall be administered jointly by the General Treasurer and one other member of the General Executive;
  - (d) A General Meeting, or, if no appointment has been made by a General Meeting, the General Executive, may appoint a person to be an auditor of the accounts of the Association, and a duly audited statement of the accounts for the previous financial year shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- 5.
- (a) There shall be a New Zealand Executive which may, subject to the control of any General Meeting, take any action within New Zealand on behalf of the Association which, in the opinion of the New Zealand Executive, will further the objects of the Association;
  - (b) The members of the New Zealand Executive shall be a New Zealand Chairperson, a New Zealand Secretary, a New Zealand Treasurer and one other member;
  - (c) The New Zealand Executive shall collect subscriptions payable by the New Zealand members of the Association and shall in each year pay to the General Executive a sum equal to 66 per cent of the subscriptions paid in that year by the New Zealand members;
  - (d) The funds retained by the New Zealand Executive shall be administered jointly by the New Zealand Treasurer and one other member of the New Zealand Executive.
6. The members of the Executives shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall take office two months thereafter. They shall hold office until two months after the next Annual General Meeting.

7. The General Executive may in its discretion:
  - (a) fill any vacancy in any office pending the next annual election of office-bearers;
  - (b) fix from time to time registration fees to be paid by participants to defray costs occasioned by meetings of the Association. Any fees thus collected and not required to cover costs shall be paid into the general funds of the Association;
  - (c) on such terms as it thinks fit invite law teachers who are not Members or Associate Members to attend any meeting of the Association and to participate in the discussions and business of the meeting and any activities associated therewith;
  - (d) on such terms as it thinks fit co-opt up to four additional members to form part of the General Executive.
8. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Association and such Special General Meeting as may be summoned by the President. Twenty one days notice shall be given to members of the holding of a General Meeting.
9. The Association shall hold an Annual Conference which shall be organised by the President, the Conference Secretary, and the Conference Treasurer acting with the advice of the General Executive.
10.
  - (a) The annual subscription for all members other than honorary life members shall be determined at the AGM;
  - (b) Membership shall be valid for the calendar year in question;
  - (c) The General Executive may in its discretion set a reduced rate for retired law teachers and visiting scholars and may agree to the payment of a discounted membership fee if an institution undertakes to pay the fee for all those eligible to become members and ensures that substantially all of its teaching staff do so join provided that the discount should be no greater than one-fifth of the fee set in paragraph (a).
11.
  - (a) To enable members to pursue academic interests in law that they have in common, 'Interest Groups' may be established within the Association by the General Executive.
  - (b) Membership of an Interest Group will be open to any member of the Association.
  - (c) Each Interest Group will be administered by a Convenor appointed by the General Executive.
12. The Association may by a resolution of a General Meeting affiliate with any organisation and may admit any organisation to affiliation with the Association.

13. This Constitution may be amended by resolution approved by a majority of members present at any General Meeting except for this clause “(clause 13) and clauses 2A and 14 which may be amended only with the consent of the Attorney General of the Australian State in which the Association's funds are situated, or of the Attorney General of New Zealand in so far as the Association's funds are situated in New Zealand, or with the consent of a Court in Australia or New Zealand having jurisdiction to vary the terms of a charitable trust.
  
14. If on the winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any property, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the Association's members but shall be given or transferred to some other organisation or organisations having objects similar to the Associations objects. Such an organisation must prohibit the distribution of its property among its members at least to the extent that clause 2A of this Constitution does. The organisation or organisations to benefit under this clause shall be determined by the members of the Association before or at the time of dissolution. In so far as effect cannot be given to the above provision the Association's property shall be used for some other charitable purpose in the area of education.