

Constitution

Healthy North Coast Ltd

Dated 26 November 2024



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Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)
Public company limited by guarantee
Healthy North Coast Ltd
ACN 154 252 132

1 Nature of company and liability

Nature of Company

- 1.1 The Company is a public company limited by guarantee.

Liability of Members and guarantee on winding up

- 1.2 The liability of the Members is limited. Every Member undertakes to contribute \$1.00 to the assets of the Company if it is wound up while they are a Member, or within one year afterwards, for:
- (a) payment of the Company's debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a Member; and
 - (b) costs and expenses of winding up.

2 Objects

- 2.1 The primary object of the Company is to prevent and control disease and other illness by improving the health status of the community in the Region and to do all acts and things as may be deemed necessary or incidental to the achievement of similar objects, including:
- (a) identifying the health needs within the Region and developing locally-focused and responsive services;
 - (b) improving the patient journey and outcomes through developing, integrating and coordinating equitable health services;
 - (c) promoting quality in primary health care by providing support to Health Practitioners and service providers to improve patient care;
 - (d) facilitating the implementation and successful performance of primary health care initiatives and programs relevant to the Region;
 - (e) promoting quality and evidence-based leading practice;
 - (f) contributing to Regional leadership, innovation and research in health;
 - (g) delivering a primary health care system in which general practice is well-integrated with other relevant health provider agencies and programs, and with the other key workforces in primary care, including nursing workforce, allied health professionals and Aboriginal Health Practitioners;
 - (h) supporting general practice in its central role in delivering comprehensive and coordinated primary care working with the broader primary health care sector,

committed to the provision of person-centered, continuing multi-disciplinary team care to individuals and families in communities in the Region;

- (i) promoting cooperation, collaboration and communication with other regional organisations with an interest or impact in health and social care;
- (j) workforce development and training relevant to the objects of the Company;
- (k) advocacy in support of the objects of the Company; and
- (l) being efficient and accountable with strong governance and effective management.

2.2 The Company will seek to achieve its objects by:

- (a) raising money to further the aims of the Company and securing sufficient funds for the purposes of the Company;
- (b) receiving any funds and distributing these funds in a manner that best attains the objects of the Company;
- (c) developing and providing broad-based community programs to promote better health care and the control and/or prevention of disease or other chronic illnesses;
- (d) engaging in activities to raise community awareness of various diseases and other illnesses and conditions;
- (e) developing and providing broad-based education programs to carers and service providers;
- (f) engaging with general medical practitioners and other relevant Health Practitioners to improve clinical practice so as to provide better outcomes to sufferers of disease and other chronic illness; and
- (g) doing all such things as are incidental, convenient or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the objects of the Company.

3 Membership

Membership

- 3.1 The Members of the Company are the Members as at the date of adoption of this constitution and such other Organisations as may be admitted to membership in accordance with this constitution.
- 3.2 The membership of the Company will consist only of eligible Organisations, as follows:
 - (a) A Member must be an Organisation.
 - (b) A Member must have a significant, active and demonstrable interest in the health and well-being of the Region.
 - (c) A Member's objects and activities must (in the Members' opinion) be consistent with, and make a substantial contribution towards, the objects of the Company.
- 3.3 Unless this constitution provides otherwise, all Members have the same rights.

Membership not transferable

- 3.4 A Member's rights, privileges and benefits of membership are personal to the Member and membership of the Company is not transferable.

Trust and related arrangements

- 3.5 Except as required by law:
- (a) No person is to be recognised by the Company as holding its membership on trust or otherwise holding the membership as a representative of another person.
 - (b) Regardless of it having notice of any other interest or right, the Company is not bound by, or compelled in any way to recognise, any equitable, contingent, future, partial or other right or interest in a Member's membership of the Company.

Members

- 3.6 All Members must do all of the following:
- (a) Pay any application fee determined in accordance with clause 4.2.
 - (b) In order to maintain membership, pay any annual subscription in accordance with clause 4.3.
 - (c) Otherwise comply with the provisions of this constitution.
- 3.7 A Member has the right to receive notices of, to attend and to be heard at any general meeting, and has the right to vote at any general meeting.

Form of application

- 3.8 An application for membership must comply with the following requirements:
- (a) It must be signed by the applicant or by an authorised representative of the applicant.
 - (b) It must be signed by or on behalf of a Member, endorsing the application for membership.
 - (c) It must be accompanied by such documents or evidence as to qualification for membership as the Board may determine from time to time within the requirements for membership set out in clause 3.2.

Admission to membership

- 3.9 When the Company receives an Application, the Board must:
- (a) consider the Application as soon as practicable after its receipt;
 - (b) assess the applicant's eligibility for membership in light of the criteria set out in clause 3.2; and
 - (c) provide to the Members such recommendations as the Board sees fit regarding the Application.

- 3.10 The Members in general meeting may determine, in their absolute discretion, the admission or rejection of each applicant for membership.
- (a) Admission to membership requires the affirmative vote of no less than 75% of Members present and voting at the relevant general meeting. If approval is obtained through a resolution in writing then such approval must be obtained from all Members entitled to vote on the resolution, in accordance with clause 7.33.
 - (b) There is no obligation to convene an extraordinary general meeting to consider one or more Applications.
- 3.11 The Members in general meeting do not have to give reasons for accepting or rejecting an Application.
- 3.12 If an Application is rejected:
- (a) the Secretary must notify the applicant in writing of that fact within a reasonable period; and
 - (b) any application fee and any annual subscription paid by the applicant (in accordance with clause 4) must be refunded to the applicant.
- 3.13 If an Application is accepted, the Secretary must notify the applicant of admission in the form of a receipt for the application fee and annual subscription (if any) or in such other form as the Board may determine from time to time, and the name and details of the applicant must be entered in the Register.
- 3.14 An applicant that is accepted for membership becomes a Member when the applicant's name is entered in the Register.

Register of Members

- 3.15 A register of the Members of the Company must be kept in accordance with the Corporations Act.
- 3.16 The following details must be entered in the Register in respect of each Member:
- (a) The full name of the Member including the ACN or ABN of a Member that is a body corporate.
 - (b) The address of the Member (being the registered address in the case of a corporate Member).
 - (c) The date on which the entry of the Member's name in the Register is made.
- 3.17 The Register must also show the following information, which may be kept separately from the rest of the Register:
- (a) The name and details of each Organisation which stopped being a Member within the last 7 years.
 - (b) The date on which each such Organisation stopped being a Member.
- 3.18 The Company may also keep further registers recording other information about Members that is not required to be kept under the Corporations Act.

- 3.19 The following details may be entered in a register referred to in clause 3.18:
- (a) The telephone number, facsimile number and email address (as applicable) of the Member.
 - (b) The date of last payment of the Member's annual subscription (if applicable).
 - (c) The full name, address, telephone number, facsimile number and email address (as applicable) of the Member's representative.
 - (d) Such other information as the Board may require.
- 3.20 Each Member must notify the Secretary in writing of any change in that Organisation's name, address, telephone or facsimile number or email address within one month after the change.

4 Application fee and annual subscription

Funding conditions

- 4.1 Despite any other provision of this constitution:
- (a) no applicant for membership will be required to pay an application fee in respect of its proposed membership of the Company;
 - (b) no Member will be required to pay an annual subscription or equivalent fee in respect of its membership of the Company; and
 - (c) the Board must not seek to impose any such fee or subscription,
- to the extent this would contravene any funding conditions (or equivalent requirements imposed by an external funding party) that apply to the Company.

Application fee

- 4.2 Subject to clause 4.1, an application fee payable by each applicant for membership is such sum as the Board may prescribe from time to time in respect of each category of membership, and for the avoidance of doubt may be nil.

Annual subscription

- 4.3 Subject to clause 4.1, an annual subscription payable by a Member is such sum as the Board may prescribe from time to time in respect of each category of membership, and for the avoidance of doubt may be nil.
- 4.4 All annual subscriptions are due and payable in advance on 1 July in each year.
- 4.5 If an Organisation applies for membership after 1 July in any year, the Board may reduce an annual subscription payable by the applicant in such manner as they think fit.

Unpaid annual subscriptions

- 4.6 A Member ceases to be entitled to any of the rights or privileges of membership if any annual subscription payable by the Member in accordance with this clause 4 remains unpaid for two months after it becomes payable and a notice of default is given to the Member pursuant to a resolution of the Board. However, the rights or privileges of membership may be reinstated on payment of all arrears if the Board (in its absolute discretion) so resolves.

5 Removal and cessation of membership

Resignation

- 5.1 A Member may resign from membership of the Company by giving written notice to the Secretary.
- 5.2 The resignation of a Member is deemed to take effect from the date of receipt of the notice of resignation or such later date as is provided in the notice. The resignation does not limit the Member's liability under this constitution.

Failure to pay

- 5.3 If a Member has not paid all arrears of annual subscriptions in accordance with clause 4.4 or, if paid, the Member's rights and privileges are not reinstated by the Board in accordance with clause 4.6, all of the following apply in respect of that Member:
- (a) The Member remains liable for all the obligations and liabilities of membership for six months after the date of notification under clause 4.6.
 - (b) The Member ceases to be a Member and the Member's name must be removed from the Register at the end of the six month period.
 - (c) The former Member continues to be liable for all fees and other money owing to the Company as at the date of the cessation of its membership of the Company, despite that cessation of membership.

Other cessation of membership

- 5.4 A Member ceases to be a Member immediately upon any Termination Event occurring in respect of the Member.

Removal from membership

- 5.5 The Board may convene a meeting of Members to consider the removal of a Member from the Register if the Board in its absolute discretion resolves that the Member is no longer considered suitable for membership of the Company.
- 5.6 The Board must provide at least two month's written notice to any Member of any intention to remove the Member from the Register, so as to enable the Member to provide any written representations to the Company.
- 5.7 Where a Member makes any written representations and the Member requests that the representations be notified to Members of the Company, the Company must do both of the following:
- (a) State that the representations have been made in any notice of the resolution given to Members of the Company.
 - (b) Send a copy of the representations to every Member of the Company to whom the notice of the meeting has been or is sent.
 - (c) The requirements in clause 5.7 do not apply to the Company if the representations are received by it too late for it to satisfy those requirements.
 - (d) If a copy of the representations is not so sent because they were received too late or because of the Company's default, the Member may, without affecting any right to be heard orally, require the representations be read out at the meeting.

- (e) Copies of the representations need not be sent out and the representations need not be read out at the meeting if the Board is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the rights conferred by clause 5.7 are being abused.
- 5.8 The Board does not have to give reasons for recommending the removal of any Member from the Register.
- 5.9 A special resolution of Members is required to pass the necessary resolution to remove a Member under clause 5.5.

6 No profits for members

Transfer of income or property

- 6.1 The Company may not pay or transfer any income or property, directly or indirectly to any Member.
- 6.2 The Company must not pay a dividend to any Member.

Payments, services and information

- 6.3 Nothing in this clause 6 prevents the Company making a payment in good faith of any of the following:
 - (a) Remuneration to any officers or employees of the Company for services actually rendered to the Company (including payment of directors' fees in accordance with clause 11.1).
 - (b) An amount to any Member in return for any services actually rendered to the Company or for goods supplied in the ordinary and usual course of business or otherwise on commercial arm's-length terms.
 - (c) Reasonable and proper interest on money borrowed from any Member.
 - (d) Reasonable and proper rent for premises let by any Member to the Company.
 - (e) Reimbursement of expenses reasonably and properly incurred by any Member on the Company's behalf with the consent of the Board.
 - (f) A grant or similar contribution made by the Company in support of the Principal Purpose.
- 6.4 Nothing in this clause 6 prevents:
 - (a) A Member from receiving services from the Company.
 - (b) The Company from providing services or information to the Members on terms which are different from the terms on which services or information may be provided to persons who are not Members.

7 General meetings

Convening of meetings by Directors

- 7.1 Any Director may convene a general meeting.

Convening of meetings by Members

- 7.2 The Board must call and arrange to hold a general meeting if required to do so under the Corporations Act and in accordance with any requirements under the Corporations Act.

Notice of general meeting

- 7.3 The Board may give notice of a general meeting by any form of communication permitted by the Corporations Act, provided that where a Member has made an election or ad hoc request under the Corporations Act about how documents are to be sent to the Member, subject to the Corporations Act the Board must comply with that election or request.
- (a) The notice of a general meeting must specify whether the meeting is to be held wholly or partly using virtual meeting technology, the place or places (if any) of the meeting, the day and the hour of meeting and if the meeting is to be held in two or more places, the technology (if any) that will be used to facilitate the meeting, the general nature of the business to be transacted and any other matters as are required by the Corporations Act.
- (b) The accidental omission to give notice of any general meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice by, a person entitled to receive notice does not affect the validity of any act, transaction, agreement, instrument, resolution or other thing.

Cancellation of general meetings

- 7.4 The Board may cancel a general meeting, other than a general meeting which the Board is required to convene and hold under the Corporations Act.
- 7.5 The Board may cancel a general meeting if notice of the cancellation is given to all persons entitled to receive notice of the meeting at least two business days prior to the time of the meeting as specified in notice of meeting.

Quorum at general meetings

- 7.6 The Members in general meeting may not transact any business unless a quorum of Members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business.
- 7.7 Except as otherwise set out in this constitution, a quorum for the purposes of a general meeting is the number equal to 50% of the total number of Members entitled to vote at the meeting (whether present by representative, proxy or attorney), rounded up to the next highest whole number.
- 7.8 If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting or a longer period allowed by the chairperson:
- (a) If the meeting was convened by or on the requisition of Members, it must be dissolved.
- (b) Otherwise, it must stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to another day and at another time and place determined by the Board.
- 7.9 If a meeting has been adjourned to another time and place determined by the Board, not less than five business days' notice of the adjourned meeting must be given in the same manner as in the case of the original meeting.

Quorum at adjourned general meetings

- 7.10 At the adjourned meeting, two Members entitled to vote at the meeting present by representative, proxy or attorney is a quorum but if a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting must be dissolved.

Appointment of chairperson

- 7.11 Every general meeting must be chaired by a chairperson. The chairperson will be determined as follows:

- (a) If the Board has elected a Director as Chair in accordance with clause 13.7, that person is entitled to chair every general meeting.
- (b) Secondly, if the Board has elected a Director as Deputy Chair in accordance with clause 13.8, that person is entitled to chair that meeting if either of the following applies:
 - (i) No Chair has been elected in accordance with clause 13.7.
 - (ii) The Chair is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unwilling to act.
- (c) Thirdly, the Directors present at the meeting must elect one of their number to chair that meeting if either of the following applies:
 - (i) No Chair has been elected in accordance with clause 13.7, and no Deputy Chair has been elected in accordance with clause 13.8.
 - (ii) Neither the Chair nor the Deputy Chair is present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting, or if present neither is willing to act.
- (d) Fourthly, the Members entitled to vote at the meeting present by representative, proxy or attorney at the meeting must elect one of those Members to chair that meeting if either of the following applies:
 - (i) There are no Directors present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.
 - (ii) All Directors present decline to chair the meeting.

Chairperson's powers

- 7.12 The chairperson may temporarily vacate the chair at a general meeting in favour of another person present at any time and for any reason they see fit, and must do so if the Members are voting on the chairperson's election or re-election as a Director (if applicable).
- 7.13 Subject to the terms of this constitution regarding adjournment of meetings, the chairperson's ruling on all matters relating to the order of business, procedure and conduct of the general meeting is final and no motion of dissent from a ruling of the chairperson may be accepted.
- 7.14 The chairperson may, in their absolute discretion, refuse any person admission to a general meeting, or expel the person from the general meeting and not permit them to return, if the

chairperson reasonably considers that the person's conduct is inappropriate. Inappropriate conduct in a general meeting includes:

- (a) The use of offensive or abusive language which is directed to any person, object or thing.
- (b) Attendance at the meeting while under the influence of any kind of drug, or using or consuming any drug at the meeting, including any alcoholic substance.
- (c) Possession of any article, including a recording device or other electronic device or a sign or banner, which the chairperson considers is dangerous, offensive or disruptive or likely to become so.

Adjournment of meetings

- 7.15 The chairperson may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present, and must if so directed by the meeting, adjourn the meeting to another time and to another place.
- (a) The only business that may be transacted at any adjourned meeting is the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
 - (b) When a meeting is adjourned for 20 business days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as in the case of an original meeting.
 - (c) Except when a meeting is adjourned for 20 business days or more, it is not necessary to give a notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.

Voting on show of hands

- 7.16 At a general meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting must be decided on a show of hands, or another method approved by the chairperson of the general meeting for Members to indicate their preference, unless a poll is demanded before that vote is taken or before the result is declared or immediately after the result is declared.
- 7.17 If a poll is not duly demanded, a declaration by the chairperson that a resolution has on a show of hands, or other method of voting approved by the chairperson under clause 7.16, been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of the proceedings of the Company, is conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.

Demand for a poll

- 7.18 A poll may be demanded by either:
- (a) The chairperson.
 - (b) At least five Members entitled to vote on the resolution.
 - (c) Any Member or Members with at least 5% of the votes that may be cast on the resolution on a poll.
- 7.19 The demand for a poll may be withdrawn with the consent of the chairperson.
- 7.20 The demand for a poll does not prevent the continuance of a meeting for the transaction of business other than the question on which a poll is demanded.

- 7.21 If a poll is duly demanded, it must be taken in the manner and, except on a question of adjournment, either at once or after an interval or adjournment or otherwise as the chairperson directs. The result of the poll is the resolution of the meeting at which the poll is demanded.
- 7.22 A poll demanded on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately.
- 7.23 A poll cannot be demanded at a general meeting on the election of a chairperson of the general meeting.

Voting rights of Members

- 7.24 On a Ballot, every Member has one vote.
- 7.25 On a show of hands or other method of voting approved by the chairperson under clause 7.16, every Member present by attorney or representative has one vote.
- 7.26 On a poll every Member present by proxy, attorney or representative has one vote.

Vote of the chairperson at general meetings

- 7.27 In a case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or other method of voting approved by the chairperson under clause 7.16 or on a poll, the chairperson of the general meeting has a casting vote in addition to any votes they may have as a representative, proxy or attorney of a Member.

Objections to voter qualification

- 7.28 No objection may be raised to the qualification of a voter except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is given or tendered.
- 7.29 An objection to the qualification of a voter must be referred to the chairperson, whose decision is final.
- 7.30 A vote not disallowed according to an objection as provided in this constitution is valid for all purposes.

Mode of meeting for Members

- 7.31 A general meeting may be called or held, including at more than one place or entirely by using virtual meeting technology that satisfies the requirements of this clause 7.31 without a specific venue.
- (a) The Company must give the Members entitled to attend the meeting, as a whole, a reasonable opportunity to participate in the meeting.
 - (b) Any virtual meeting technology that is used to hold a general meeting must be reasonable and must allow the Members who are entitled to attend the meeting, and do attend the meeting using that virtual meeting technology, as a whole, to exercise orally and in writing any rights of those Members to ask questions and make comments.
 - (c) Anyone using virtual meeting technology that satisfies the requirements of clause 7.31(b) to participate in the general meeting is taken to be present in person at the general meeting while so participating.
 - (d) Subject to the other provisions of this constitution, the Members may otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit.

7.32 Where a general meeting is held using virtual meeting technology in accordance with clause 7.31(b):

- (a) If a person may attend the general meeting physically (whether or not the meeting is also held using virtual meeting technology), the place and time for the meeting is taken to be the main location of the meeting as set out in the notice of meeting, and the time at that place.
- (b) If the meeting is held using virtual meeting technology only, the place for the meeting is taken to be the address of the Office, and the time for the meeting is taken to be the time at the Office.
- (c) Without limiting the chairperson's powers under this constitution and at law, the general meeting must be conducted in accordance with any policies adopted by the Board from time to time concerning the use of virtual meeting technology to conduct general meetings, to the extent that such policies are consistent with the Corporations Act and this constitution.
- (d) If any technical difficulties occur before or during the general meeting, the chairperson may:
 - (i) if the chairperson considers that the virtual meeting technology being used no longer satisfies the requirements of clause 7.31(b), adjourn the general meeting until those requirements are satisfied or otherwise adjourn the general meeting to such other date and time as the chairperson considers appropriate and to such other place (if any) as the chairperson considers appropriate; or
 - (ii) continue the meeting, if a quorum is present (whether at the place the chairperson is present, or by means of virtual meeting technology that satisfies the requirements of clause 7.31(b)) and the Members as a whole have a reasonable opportunity to participate. That continuation will not, in and of itself, affect the validity of any act, transaction, agreement, instrument, resolution or other thing.

Resolution in writing

7.33 A resolution in writing signed by all Members entitled to vote on the resolution is to be treated as a determination of the Members passed at a meeting of the Members duly convened and held.

Form of resolution in writing

7.34 A resolution in writing may consist of substantially similar documents.

- (a) Each document must be signed by at least one Member.
- (b) If the resolution in writing consists of substantially similar documents, it takes effect on the latest date on which a Member signs one of the documents.
- (c) Alternatively, such a resolution may consist of each Member affirming by mechanical or electronic means that they approve the proposed resolution. A document produced by mechanical or electronic means that purports to be from a Member or the Member's representative, proxy or attorney is considered a document in writing signed by the Member and is deemed to be signed when received in readable form.

- (d) A document generated by mechanical or electronic means which purports to be:
 - (i) a copy of a resolution of Members is to be treated as a resolution in writing; and
 - (ii) a copy of a signature is to be treated as signed by the Member whose signature appears to be on it.
- (e) If a resolution in writing is signed or approved by a proxy of a Member, it must not also be signed or approved by the appointing Member (and vice versa).

8 Ballots

General rules regarding Ballots

- 8.1 Subject to the requirements of the law and this clause 8, the Board may submit any question or proposed resolution (including the proposed election of any Director) to the vote of Members by means of a Ballot.
- 8.2 A resolution of Members decided by Ballot is as valid and effective as if the resolution had been passed at a duly convened and constituted general meeting of the Company.
- 8.3 Subject always to the requirements of the law, where the Corporations Act or this constitution provides that the relevant resolution may only be passed as a special resolution:
 - (a) The Ballot paper and any relevant background material that accompanies it when it is sent to Members must set out an intention to propose the special resolution and state the resolution.
 - (b) The resolution must be passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by Members entitled to vote on the resolution.
- 8.4 Subject always to the requirements of the law and clause 8.3, a Ballot may be conducted in any manner that the Board may in its absolute discretion determine from time to time, subject always to the following requirements:
 - (a) The Ballot must be a secret Ballot, and the Board must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the manner in which the Ballot is taken will preserve its secrecy.
 - (b) A Ballot may be conducted by post or by facsimile or other electronic means, as the Board may determine in its absolute discretion from time to time.
 - (c) A Ballot must not be combined with any other method of voting provided for in this constitution (for example, voting at a general meeting of Members).
 - (d) Every Ballot must be conducted by a returning officer appointed by the Board.
 - (i) The returning officer may be any type of person or entity, but must not be a Director (or, if clause 8.6 applies, a person who is seeking election as a Director under the relevant Ballot).
 - (ii) If the Board does not appoint a returning officer, or if the person appointed by the Board cannot or will not act, a Secretary must act as returning officer.
 - (e) Only votes that are received by the returning officer on before 5:00pm on the Polling Date will be counted. All votes received after that time will be invalid and must be disregarded.

- (f) The proposed resolution or other question submitted to Members by means of a Ballot will be determined by a simple majority according to the number of valid votes cast for or against the resolution or question. If there is an equality of votes, the Chair does not have a casting vote in addition to any votes they may have as a representative, proxy or attorney of a Member.
 - (g) No resolution or other question determined by Ballot is invalid merely because there has been an accidental omission to give the Ballot paper or other relevant material to a Member, or a Member has not received those documents.
 - (h) An objection to the qualification of a Member to vote in a particular Ballot must be referred to the Chair no later than 5 business days prior to the relevant Polling Date. The Chair's decision on the objection is final. A vote not disallowed according to an objection as provided for in this clause 8.4(h) is valid for all purposes.
- 8.5 For the avoidance of doubt, subject to the requirements set out in clause 8.4 the Board may in its absolute discretion determine:
- (a) The form of the Ballot paper and the form and content of any material that is intended to accompany the Ballot paper.
 - (b) The Polling Date.
 - (c) The manner in which objections regarding the conduct or outcome of a Ballot must be raised, and the manner in which any such disputes will be resolved.
 - (d) All other matters relevant to the form, conduct and outcome of the Ballot.

Election of Directors conducted by Ballot

- 8.6 Where the election of Directors is to occur by means of a Ballot, the following rules apply in addition to the general rules set out in clauses 8.1 to 8.5:
- (a) The requirements of clause 10.13(c) apply for all nominations for the position of Director to be voted upon by Members by means of a Ballot.
 - (b) The requirements of clauses 10.13(d) to 10.13(f) apply to Directors elected by means of a Ballot.
 - (c) Where the relevant Board positions will fall vacant at the close of the next AGM:
 - (i) The Polling Date must be a date that is not more than 40 business days, and not less than 10 business days, before the intended date for holding the AGM, with the intention that the outcome of the Ballot will be determined at least 5 business days before the intended date for holding the AGM.
 - (ii) A Director (other than a retiring Director seeking re-election) who is elected by means of a Ballot will only commence to hold that office on and from the close of the relevant AGM, and not the Polling Date or the date that the outcome of the Ballot is determined.
 - (d) Without limiting clause 8.6(f), the Board must ensure that the Ballot paper to be sent to Members contains only the names of each of the Approved Candidates for election in alphabetical order (by last name), along with the number of vacancies to be filled, and enables each Member to specify the manner in which the Member votes on each proposed resolution. The Board may also cause the Ballot paper to be accompanied by an explanatory statement detailing any information the Board considers appropriate.

- (e) Elected Board positions will be determined by a 'first past the post' voting system such that Board positions are filled by candidates with the highest number of votes in descending order. However:
 - (i) If two or more Approved Candidates receive an equal number of votes under the Ballot, the returning officer will determine their respective rankings for the purposes of the election by lot.
 - (ii) Notwithstanding the number of votes cast in an Approved Candidate's favour or the outcome of lots drawn under clause 8.6(e)(i), they will automatically cease to be an Eligible Candidate if their election would result in the requirements of clause 10.1(b) being breached.
- (f) Where the number of Approved Candidates is equal to or less than the number of vacant positions to be filled by the Members in a Ballot, none of those Approved Candidates will be deemed to be elected and a Ballot must be conducted.

9 Representative, proxies and attorneys

Representatives, proxies and attorneys of Members

- 9.1 At meetings of Members each Member entitled to vote may vote by representative, proxy or by attorney in accordance with clauses 7.24 and 7.26.
- 9.2 Subject to the terms of their appointment, a person attending as a proxy, or as the attorney of a Member, or as representative of a Member, has all the powers of a Member, except where expressly stated to the contrary.

Appointment and removal of representatives

- 9.3 A Member may from time to time appoint a natural person as its sole representative in any matters connected with the Company, including as permitted by the Corporations Act.
 - (a) A Member may appoint, and remove, its representative for the time being by written notice to the Secretary in such form as the Board may prescribe from time to time.
 - (b) A document executed by a Member in accordance with section 127 of the Corporations Act (where applicable to the Member) is rebuttable evidence of the appointment, or removal, of the named representative.
 - (c) For the avoidance of doubt, a representative is entitled to exercise the powers of the Member which appointed him or her (in accordance with clause 9.2) and a representative present must be counted towards a quorum on the basis that the Member is to be considered personally present at the general meeting by its representative.

Appointment of attorneys

- 9.4 If a Member executes or proposes to execute any document or do any act by or through an attorney which affects the Company or the Member's membership of the Company, the Member must promptly provide the Company with any or all of the following upon written request from the Company:
 - (a) The original executed instrument appointing the attorney, for notation.
 - (b) A certified copy of the original executed instrument appointment the attorney, for the Company to retain.

- (c) Any other evidence the Company may request from time to time regarding the power of attorney, including evidence that the power of attorney is effective and remains in force.

Appointment of proxies

- 9.5 A Member may appoint another person as their proxy to attend and vote instead of the Member. A proxy need not be a Member.
 - (a) A document appointing a proxy must be in writing, in any form permitted by the Corporations Act and signed by the Member making the appointment.
 - (b) A document appointing a proxy may specify the manner in which the proxy is to vote in respect of a particular resolution and, where the document so provides, the proxy is not entitled to vote on the resolution except as specified in the document.
 - (c) Except as expressly provided by the document appointing a proxy, an appointment of a proxy confers authority to do all things that the Member can do in respect of a general meeting.

Verification of proxies

- 9.6 Before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which a proxy proposes to vote, both of the following documents must be deposited with the Company:
 - (a) The document appointing the proxy.
 - (b) If the appointment is signed by the appointor's attorney, the authority under which the appointment was signed or a certified copy of that authority (even if previously provided to the Company in accordance with clause 9.4).
- 9.7 Those documents must be received at the Office, at a fax number at the Office or at another place, fax number or electronic address specified for that purpose in the notice convening the meeting not less than 24 hours before the time for holding the meeting.
- 9.8 If a general meeting has been adjourned, an appointment and any authority received by the Company at least 24 hours before the resumption of the meeting are effective for the resumed part of the meeting.

Validity of proxies

- 9.9 A proxy document is invalid if it is not deposited or produced prior to a meeting or a vote being taken as required by this document.

Revocation of appointment of proxy

- 9.10 A vote given in accordance with the terms of a proxy document or power of attorney is valid despite the occurrence of any one or more of the following events if no intimation in writing of any of those events has been received by the Company at the Office before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the document is used:
 - (a) The previous death or unsoundness of mind of the principal.
 - (b) The revocation of the instrument or of the authority under which the instrument was executed.

10 Appointment and retirement of directors

Structure of the Board

- 10.1 The Company will be governed by a skills-based board:
- (a) consisting of Directors having appropriate competencies, skills and experience in light of the Skills Matrix (if any), and in particular having expertise in areas including knowledge of health care provision and its relationship to local communities, business management and accounting and legal issues; and
 - (b) where a majority of the Directors are not practising in any one profession.

Qualifications of Directors

- 10.2 A Director need not be employed by or otherwise associated with a Member of the Company. However, a person cannot be elected as a Director unless they are an Eligible Candidate in accordance with clauses 10.13 and 10.19.

Number of Directors

- 10.3 The number of Directors must not be less than three nor more than nine, unless and until otherwise determined in accordance with this constitution.

Director categories

- 10.4 Subject to the other provisions of this clause 10, each Director upon election or appointment (as the case may be), must be assigned a 'Director category', being either 'Category A', 'Category B' or 'Category C', for the purposes of determining the Director's indicative term of office and the manner in which Directors will retire by rotation, as follows:

| Director category | Term of office | Subsequent term of office |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Category A | Until the close of the 2023 AGM or the relevant successive third AGM thereafter (as applicable) | Until the close of the 2026 AGM or each successive third AGM thereafter (as applicable) Example: As the First AGM was held in 2014, a 'Category A' Director's term of office will end at the close of 2023 AGM and thereafter at the close of the AGM held in 2026, 2029, 2032 and so on (as applicable). |
| Category B | Until the close of the 2024 AGM or the relevant successive third AGM thereafter (as applicable) | Until the close of the 2027 AGM or each successive third AGM thereafter (as applicable) Example: As the Second AGM was held in 2015, a 'Category B' Director's term of office will end at the close of the AGM held in 2024, 2027, 2030 and so on (as applicable). |
| Category C | Until the close of the 2022 AGM or the relevant successive third AGM thereafter (as applicable) | Until the close of the 2025 AGM or each successive third AGM thereafter (as applicable) Example: As the Third AGM was held in 2016, a 'Category C' Director's term of office will end at the close of the AGM held in 2025, 2028, 2031 and so on (as applicable). |

| Director category | Term of office | Subsequent term of office |
|-------------------|--|--|
| | Note: The above terms of office are indicative only and are subject to the other provisions of this clause 10. | Note: The above terms of office are indicative only and are subject to the other provisions of this clause 10. |

Directors and assignment of Director categories

10.5 Subject to clause 10.6, each Director who is elected or appointed (as the case may be) will be assigned the Director category that applies to the Director whom they are replacing, if applicable. Otherwise, the Director category to be assigned to the Director will be determined by the Board with reference to the following principles:

- (a) Wherever possible there should be an identical number of Directors assigned to each Director category holding office.
- (b) Where this cannot be achieved (because the number of Directors for the time being is not evenly divisible by three) the Director category must be assigned as follows:
 - (i) Where one Director category has fewer Directors assigned to it than the other Director categories, that Director category.
 - (ii) Otherwise, the Director category must be determined randomly from among the least-represented Director categories for the time being.

10.6 A Director who is re-elected or re-appointed (as the case may be) will retain their existing Director category.

Election and appointment of Directors

10.7 Without limiting the Members' rights under clause 10.19 or the Corporations Act, Directors will either be:

- (a) elected by the Members in general meeting in accordance with clause 10.13; or
- (b) appointed by the Board (or the sole Director) in accordance with clause 10.16,

with the number of Directors to be elected, and appointed, in any given year to be determined as follows:

| | Number of Directors | Applicable Director categories |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Number of Directors elected, and applicable Director categories | Up to six elected Directors | Two Category A Two Category B Two Category C |
| Number of Directors appointed, and applicable Director categories | Up to three appointed Directors | One Category A One Category B One Category C |

Term of office

- 10.8 Subject to the other terms of this constitution, a Director will hold office for a maximum period ending at the close of the relevant general meeting of the Company determined in accordance with clause 10.4 for that Director category.
- 10.9 A retiring Director is eligible for re-election or re-appointment, save that a Director will be ineligible for re-election or re-appointment after holding office for three consecutive terms. For the avoidance of doubt:
- (a) Each Director is eligible to be re-elected (or re-appointed) for only two additional consecutive terms of approximately three years each as a Director immediately following the Director's initial term of office, even if the Director's initial term of office is less than three years.
 - (b) Clause 10.9 does not prevent a former Director from subsequently being elected or appointed as a Director in accordance with this constitution, provided that a period of at least 12 consecutive calendar months has passed since the person last held the office of Director.

Retirement of Directors

- 10.10 The Directors who must retire from office at an AGM are determined in accordance with clause 10.4 and are all of the Directors that are assigned the applicable Director category (namely, 'Category A', 'Category B' or 'Category C').
- 10.11 A Director retiring at an AGM may act as a director until the conclusion of that meeting and is eligible for re-election or re-appointment to the extent permitted by law and this constitution.
- 10.12 A Director may retire from office by giving notice in writing to the Company of that Director's intention to retire. A notice of resignation takes effect at the time which is the later of the time of giving the notice to the Company and the expiration of the period, if any, specified in the notice.

Election of Directors at annual general meetings of the Company

- 10.13 The process for electing Directors is as follows:
- (a) The Board may determine in its absolute discretion whether the election of Directors will be conducted by Ballot or by voting at a general meeting of the Company.
 - (b) The Members may elect a number of Directors equal to or less than the number determined in accordance with clauses 10.4 and 10.7 from the nominations.
 - (c) Nominations for the position of Director may be submitted by any person, including to avoid doubt a Member or a retiring Director. Any such nomination must:
 - (i) be in writing and signed by the proposer and (if not the same as the proposer) the nominee for election;
 - (ii) be accompanied by a consent to act as a Director signed by the nominee for election, as required under the Corporations Act;
 - (iii) for the purposes of ensuring compliance with the requirements of clause 10.1(b), identify the profession or professions in which the candidate practices, along with any other profession that the candidate expects to be practising in within the next three years; and

- (iv) be submitted to the Nominations Committee and received by the Nominations Committee by no later than 50 business days before the Polling Date (if the election is to be conducted by Ballot in accordance with clause 8) or by no later than 50 business days before the relevant AGM (if the election is to be conducted at the AGM).
- (d) A person must not be nominated for election as a Director, or otherwise elected as a Director, unless they are an Eligible Candidate. To avoid doubt, an Approved Candidate will cease to be an Eligible Candidate if their election would otherwise result in the requirements of clause 10.1(b) being breached.
- (e) A nomination may be withdrawn by the nominee for election or the relevant proposer at any time prior to the relevant AGM by giving written notice to the Secretary, with a copy to the Board.
- (f) The following rules apply to Director elections, whether conducted by Ballot in accordance with clause 8 or conducted at an AGM:
 - (i) The Nominations Committee and subsequently the Board must only consider nominations for the position of Director that satisfy all of the requirements set out in clause 10.13(c) (**Valid Nominations**). The Nominations Committee and subsequently the Board must reject all nominations that are not Valid Nominations. Neither the Nominations Committee nor the Board has to give reasons for determining that a particular nomination is or is not a Valid Nomination.
 - (ii) The Nominations Committee must provide the Board with its recommendations regarding which Valid Nominations should be Approved Candidates, and which (if any) should be rejected, by no later than 30 business days prior to the Polling Date (if the election is to be conducted by Ballot in accordance with clause 8) or by no later than 30 business days prior to the date of the AGM (if the election is to be conducted at the AGM). The Nominations Committee's recommendations do not bind the Board.
 - (iii) After receiving and considering any recommendations from the Nominations Committee, the Board may, in its absolute discretion, determine which of the Valid Nominations will be Approved Candidates, and which (if any) will be rejected and hence not submitted to Members. The Board does not have to give reasons for approving or rejecting any Valid Nominations (including to the Nominations Committee), and its decision is final and cannot be challenged or overridden by any person.
 - (iv) The Board must provide notice of the Approved Candidates to all Members in accordance with this constitution by no later than 20 business days prior to the Polling Date (if the election is to be conducted by Ballot in accordance with clause 8) or by no later than 20 business days prior to the date of the AGM (if the election is to be conducted at the AGM).
 - (v) Where the number of Approved Candidates for the position of Director is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled by the Members (whether by means of a by Ballot in accordance with clause 8 or by voting at an AGM), no Approved Candidate will be deemed to be elected and a vote must be conducted (as applicable) by means of a Ballot in accordance with clause 8 or by means of a show of hands (or other method of voting approved by the chairperson under clause 7.16) or poll in accordance with the Corporations Act and this constitution (including clauses 10.13(g) and 10.13(h)).

- (g) Where the election of Directors is to occur by means of a show of hands (or other method of voting approved by the chairperson under clause 7.16) or poll at the relevant AGM, a list shall be prepared containing only the names of each of the Approved Candidates, in alphabetical order (by last name) along with the number of vacancies to be filled. Each Member present and voting at the AGM shall be entitled to vote for any number of such Approved Candidates not exceeding the number of vacancies. In the event of an equal vote for two or more candidates (other than where no votes are cast in favour of the election of any of those candidates), the returning officer will determine the respective rankings for the purposes of the election by lot.
 - (h) Where there is not a sufficient number of Approved Candidates or the Members do not otherwise elect a sufficient number of Directors under that election process, the relevant Director position not filled shall remain vacant until that vacancy is filled in accordance with this clause 10.13 or clause 8.6 at the next AGM, or filled by the Directors in accordance with clause 10.16.
 - (i) If at any time there is no Nominations Committee, as necessary all references to the 'Nominations Committee' in this clause 10.13 are taken to be references to the Board, with the Board having the specified functions and powers until such time as there is a Nominations Committee.
- 10.14 A Director elected by Members will commence in office from the close of the First AGM or other relevant AGM of the Company, other than where clause 10.19 applies or the Director was a Director immediately prior to that AGM.
- 10.15 A Director elected in accordance with clause 10.13 must be assigned a Director category in accordance with clauses 10.5 and 10.6 and will hold office for a maximum period determined in accordance with clause 10.4.

Appointment of Directors and casual vacancies

- 10.16 The Board, or if there is only one Director, that Director, may at any time appoint a person to be a Director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing number of Directors. The total number of Directors may not exceed the number fixed in accordance with this constitution. A Director appointed by the Board (whether to fill a casual vacancy, or otherwise) must be assigned a Director category in accordance with clause 10.5 and will hold office for a maximum period determined in accordance with clause 10.4.
- 10.17 Despite clause 10.16, the Board must not appoint a person to be a Director if their appointment would result in the requirements of clause 10.1(b) being breached.
- 10.18 The Board (or sole Director, as applicable) may consult with the Nominations Committee before exercising the power of appointment under clause 10.16, but is not obliged to do so, and will retain absolute discretion with regards to the exercise of that power.

Removal from office

- 10.19 The Members in general meeting may by ordinary resolution remove a Director from office by following the process set out in section 203D Corporations Act, including its notice requirements, and may by ordinary resolution elect another person who is an Eligible Candidate as a replacement. The replacement Director will be assigned a Director category in accordance with clause 10.5 and will hold office for a maximum period determined in accordance with clause 10.4. To avoid doubt, the Members are not obliged to liaise with the Nominations Committee either before or after exercising powers of removal or election under this clause 10.19.

Vacation of office

- 10.20 In addition to the circumstances in which the office of a Director becomes vacant by virtue of the Corporations Act or another provision of this constitution, the office of Director immediately becomes vacant if any of the following occurs:
- (a) The Director becomes an insolvent under administration.
 - (b) The Director becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health.
 - (c) The Director is absent from all Board meetings over a consecutive period of six months without the prior consent of the Board.
 - (d) The Director becomes prohibited from being a director by reason of an order made under the Corporations Act or the Director is removed from any office under the ACNC Act.

11 Directors' remuneration

Determination of fees

- 11.1 The Directors must be paid by way of fees for their services, with the amounts, if any, determined from time to time by the Members in general meeting.
- 11.2 Directors' fees accrue from day to day.

Additional services rendered

- 11.3 Any Director may be paid a fee, salary or hourly rate in return for any services actually rendered to the Company in a professional or technical capacity (other than within their ordinary duties as a Director), provided that the Board has given its prior written approval to both the provision of the services and the proposed fee, salary or hourly rate.

Payment for expenses

- 11.4 Each Director must be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses reasonably and properly incurred by the Director in connection with Company business (including travel and accommodation expenses). Alternatively, the Company may pay such amounts on the Director's behalf.

12 Powers of the Board

The Board may exercise all those powers of the Company as are not, by the Corporations Act or by this constitution, required to be exercised by the Members in general meeting or otherwise.

13 Proceedings of directors

Convening of Board meetings

- 13.1 A Director may at any time, and a Secretary must on the requisition of a Director, convene a Board meeting.

Notice of Board meetings

- 13.2 The person convening a Board meeting must ensure that notice of the Board meeting is given to each Director at least 48 hours before the meeting or at another time determined by Board resolution, except:
- (a) All Directors may waive in writing the required period of notice for a particular meeting.
 - (b) It is not necessary to give a notice of a meeting of Directors to a Director who is out of Australia or who has been given leave of absence by the Board.

Mode of meeting for Directors

- 13.3 A Board meeting may be called or held using any technology consented to by all the Directors. The consent may be a standing one, provided that all Directors give or renew that consent promptly after a new Director joins the Board. A Director may only withdraw their consent within a reasonable period before the meeting. Anyone using such technology is taken to be present in person at the Board meeting. The Board may otherwise regulate its meetings as the Board thinks fit.

Quorum at Board meetings

- 13.4 At a Board meeting, the number of Directors whose presence is necessary to constitute a quorum is equal to one half of the number of Directors holding office at the time plus one (rounded up to the next highest whole number) or another number determined by Board resolution from time to time.
- 13.5 If the number of Directors is reduced below the number necessary for a quorum of Directors, the continuing Director or Directors may act only to:
- (a) appoint additional Directors to the number necessary for a quorum in accordance with clause 10.16; or
 - (b) convene a general meeting of the Company.

Voting at Board meetings

- 13.6 The Board must determine any questions arising at a Board meeting by a majority of votes of Directors present and voting.

Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair

- 13.7 The Board may elect a Director as Chair to chair Board meetings, as follows:
- (a) The first Chair:
 - (i) must be elected as Chair by the Directors present and voting at the first Board meeting of the Company held after the date this constitution is adopted, or at a Board meeting held as soon as practicable thereafter; and
 - (ii) will hold office as Chair until the commencement of the first Board meeting following the close of the First AGM.
 - (b) Subsequently, the Board will by resolution elect a Director as Chair at the first Board meeting following the First AGM or the most recent AGM (whichever is applicable), to hold office for a maximum period of approximately one year until the commencement of the first Board meeting following the next AGM.

- (c) Despite the above, the Board may by resolution remove the Chair at any time and appoint another Director as Chair.
- 13.8 The Board may elect a Director as Deputy Chair as follows:
- (a) The first Deputy Chair:
 - (i) must be elected as Deputy Chair by the Directors present and voting at the first Board meeting of the Company held after the date this constitution is adopted, or at a Board meeting held as soon as practicable thereafter; and
 - (ii) will hold office as Deputy Chair until the commencement of the first Board meeting following the close of the First AGM.
 - (b) Subsequently, the Board will by resolution elect a Director as Deputy Chair at the first Board meeting following the First AGM or the most recent AGM (whichever is applicable), to hold office for a maximum period of approximately one year until the commencement of the first Board meeting following the next AGM.
 - (c) Despite the above, the Board may by resolution remove the Deputy Chair at any time and appoint another Director as Deputy Chair.
- 13.9 If no Chair is elected, or if at any meeting the Chair is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting or is unwilling to act, the Deputy Chair may act as chair of that meeting.
- 13.10 If no Chair or Deputy Chair is elected, or if at any meeting the Chair and the Deputy Chair are not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting or are unwilling to act, the Directors present must choose one of their number to chair that meeting.

Term of office for Chair and Deputy Chair

- 13.11 A retiring Chair or Deputy Chair is eligible for re-election, save that a Chair or Deputy Chair will be ineligible for re-election after holding office for six consecutive terms (as determined in accordance with clause 13.7 or clause 13.8, as applicable). For the avoidance of doubt:
- (a) Each Chair and each Deputy Chair (if any) is eligible to be re-elected for only five additional consecutive one-year terms as Chair or Deputy Chair (as applicable) immediately following their initial term as Chair or Deputy Chair (as the case may be), even if their initial term of office is less than one year.
 - (b) Clause 13.11 does not prevent a former Chair or Deputy Chair from subsequently being elected or appointed as Chair or Deputy Chair in accordance with this constitution, provided that a period of at least 12 consecutive calendar months has passed since the person last held the office of Chair or Deputy Chair.

Chairperson's vote at Board meetings

- 13.12 In the case of an equality of votes at a Board meeting, the Chair (or other Director chairing the meeting in accordance with clause 13.9 or 13.10) has a casting vote in addition to their deliberative vote as a Director.

Participation where Directors interested

- 13.13 A Director may be present and may vote on a matter before the Board if and to the extent that they are permitted to do so under the Corporations Act.

- 13.14 If there are not enough Directors to form a quorum as a result of a Director having an interest which disqualifies them from voting then one or more of the Directors (including those who have the disqualifying interest in the matter) may call a general meeting of the Company and the general meeting may pass a resolution to deal with the matter.
- 13.15 Subject to compliance with the Corporations Act, a Director may execute or participate in the execution of a document by or on behalf of the Company.

No disqualification

- 13.16 Subject to compliance with the Corporations Act, a Director or any entity in which the Director has a direct or indirect interest (as applicable) may:
- (a) Enter into a contract or arrangement with an Associated Party.
 - (b) Hold any office or place of profit (other than auditor) in an Associated Party.
 - (c) Act in a professional capacity (or be a member of a firm that so acts) other than as auditor of an Associated Party.
- 13.17 Despite the fiduciary nature of a Director's office and the Director's fiduciary obligations:
- (a) Any contract or arrangement entered into in accordance with clause 13.16(a) by the Director or any entity in which the Director has a direct or indirect interest is not invalid or voidable
 - (b) A Director may do any of the things specified in clause 13.16 without any liability to account to the Company or any other person for any direct or indirect benefit accruing to the Director or any entity in which the Director has a direct or indirect interest.

Exercise of rights

- 13.18 If the Company holds or owns membership, shares or other interests in another body corporate, trust or other entity, the Board may exercise any and all voting rights conferred by the membership, shares or interests in any manner the Board considers fit.

Delegation of powers

- 13.19 The Board may delegate any of its powers to any person, as the Board sees fit. This includes delegating any of the Board's powers to committees consisting of Directors or other persons (as the Board sees fit).
- 13.20 An authorised delegate's exercise of a power in accordance with this constitution is to be treated as the exercise of that power by the Board.
- 13.21 A delegate must conform to the directions of the Board in the exercise of any powers delegated to the delegate.

Nominations Committee

- 13.22 The Board must promptly establish a Nominations Committee (by whatever name called) as a committee of the Board, to provide advice and recommendations to the Board and/or the Members on specified matters, among any other functions and/or powers set out in this constitution or otherwise as determined by the Board from time to time (any such determination not being inconsistent with this constitution). The Board must do so using terms of reference for the Nominations Committee that are consistent with the requirements of this constitution.

- 13.23 The Nominations Committee must consist of the following persons:
- (a) Between one and three Eligible Directors selected by the Board from time to time.
 - (b) Up to two other person who are not Directors.
- 13.24 An Eligible Director may serve on the Nominations Committee for so long as they remain an Eligible Director. After a person described in clause 13.23(a) ceases to be a member of the Nominations Committee, the Board may reappoint the person to the Nominations Committee in accordance with either:
- (a) clause 13.23(a) (if the person is an Eligible Director at the time), for so long as they remain an Eligible Director; or
 - (b) clause 13.23(b) (if the person is not a Director at the time), for a maximum period determined in accordance with clause 13.25.
- 13.25 A person who is appointed to the Nominations Committee in accordance with clause 13.23(b) may not serve on the Nominations Committee for more than five consecutive years, and the Board must not purport to appoint a person to the Nominations Committee if this clause 13.25 would be breached. Any period that the person served on the Nominations Committee while they were an Eligible Director is not counted for the purposes of this clause 13.25. This clause 13.25 does not prevent a former member of the Nominations Committee who was appointed to the Nominations Committee in accordance with clause 13.23(b) from subsequently being re-appointed to the Nominations Committee in accordance with this constitution, provided that a period of at least 12 consecutive calendar months has passed since they last served as a member of the Nominations Committee.
- 13.26 The Nominations Committee may, with the prior written consent of the Board, appoint consultants (including executive search firms) to assist the Nominations Committee in identifying and screening potential candidates for election to the Board under clause 10.13. The Board must ensure that the Nominations Committee is otherwise provided with adequate resources to perform its functions.
- 13.27 Subject to clauses 13.22 to 13.26, the Board may:
- (a) Specify in writing from time to time the terms of reference of the Nominations Committee, including its role and functions, and amend, revoke or replace the terms of reference from time to time, save that the terms of reference must be consistent with the requirements of this constitution.
 - (b) Without limiting clauses 6 or 11, specify the remuneration (if any) of any person who may serve on the Nominations Committee from time to time.
 - (c) Remove and/or replace any or all of the then current members of the Nominations Committee from time to time.
- 13.28 The Board may only dissolve the Nominations Committee with the prior approval of the Members in general meeting.
- 13.29 All references to the 'Nominations Committee' in this constitution (other than in this clause 13 and clause 21.1) will be of no force or effect unless the Board has established the Nominations Committee and the Nominations Committee remains in existence at the relevant time.

Board committees

- 13.30 The Board may in its absolute discretion establish one or more committees to provide advice and recommendations to the Board on specified matters (among any other functions determined by the Board, which may but need not include the exercise of power delegated by the Board in accordance with clause 13.19).
- 13.31 The Board may, with respect to a committee:
- (a) Specify in writing from time to time the terms of reference and functions of the committee.
 - (b) Appoint such persons as the Board considers appropriate to the committee (including, if thought fit, one or more Directors), and remove any such person from the committee at any time by written notice or otherwise in accordance with the terms of reference of that committee.
 - (c) Specify the period and conditions (including as to remuneration, if any) of any such appointment to the committee.
 - (d) Terminate the committee at any time.

Proceedings of committees

- 13.32 Except as provided in a direction of the Board (including if applicable the terms of reference of the relevant committee), the meetings and proceedings of a committee formed by the Directors and/or other persons must be governed by the provisions of this constitution, in so far as they are applicable, as if meetings and proceedings of the committee are meetings and proceedings of the Board. To avoid doubt, this includes clause 13.36 with respect to resolutions of committees.

Validity of acts of Directors etc

- 13.33 All acts done by a Board meeting or of a committee of (or including) Directors or by a person acting as a Director are valid even if it is later discovered that there is a defect in the appointment of a person to be a Director or a member of the committee or that they or any of them were disqualified or were not entitled to vote.

Minutes

- 13.34 The Board must cause minutes of all proceedings of general meetings, of Board meetings and of subcommittees formed by the Directors to be entered, within one month after the relevant meeting is held, in books kept for the purpose.
- 13.35 The Board must cause all minutes, except resolutions in writing treated as determinations of the Board, to be signed by the chairperson of the meeting at which the proceedings took place or by the chairperson of the next succeeding meeting.

Resolution in writing

- 13.36 A resolution in writing signed or consented to by all Directors (excluding any Director who has requested and been given leave of absence by the Board, any Director who disqualifies himself or herself from considering that resolution and any Director who would be prohibited from voting on that resolution under the Corporations Act) is to be treated as a determination

of the Board passed at a Board meeting duly convened and held. The resolution is not invalidated if it is also consented to by a Director who is not entitled to vote.

- (a) A resolution in writing may consist of several documents in like form, each signed by one or more Directors, and if so signed it takes effect on the latest date on which a Director signs one of the documents.
- (b) Alternatively, a resolution in writing may consist of each Director affirming by mechanical or electronic means that the Director approves the proposed resolution, and a document produced by mechanical or electronic means that purports to be from a Director is considered a document in writing signed by the Director and is deemed to be signed when received in readable form.
- (c) A document generated by mechanical or electronic means which purports to be:
 - (i) a copy of a resolution of Directors is to be treated as a resolution in writing; and
 - (ii) a copy of a signature is to be treated as signed by the Director whose signature appears to be on it.

14 Secretary

- 14.1 The Board may appoint one or more Secretaries and may at any time terminate the appointment or appointments.
- 14.2 The Board may determine the terms and conditions of appointment of a Secretary, including remuneration. Any one of the Secretaries may carry out any act or deed required by this constitution, the Corporations Act or by any other statute to be carried out by the secretary of the Company.

15 Indemnity and insurance

Indemnity

- 15.1 Every officer and past officer of the Company may be indemnified by the Company, to the fullest extent permitted by law, against a liability incurred by that person as an officer of the Company or a subsidiary of the Company, including without limitation legal costs and expenses incurred in defending an action. To avoid doubt, the ways in which the Company may do so include by entering into an "Indemnity, Insurance and Access Deed" (or similar contract) from time to time with one or more officers or past officers of the Company.

Insurance premiums

- 15.2 The Company may pay the premium on a contract insuring a person who is or has been an officer of the Company to the fullest extent permitted by law. To avoid doubt, the ways in which the Company may do so include by entering into an "Indemnity, Insurance and Access Deed" (or similar contract) from time to time with one or more officers or past officers of the Company.

16 Seals and execution of documents

Custody of Seal

- 16.1 If the Company has one, the Board must provide for the safe custody of the Seal.

Execution of documents

- 16.2 The Company may execute a document by affixing the Seal to the document where the fixing of the Seal is witnessed by any of the following:
- (a) By two Directors.
 - (b) By a Director and the Secretary.
 - (c) By a Director and some other person appointed by the Directors for the purpose.
- 16.3 Nothing in this clause 16 limits the manner in which the Company may execute a document without the use of a Seal.

Official seals

- 16.4 The Company may have for use in place of the Seal outside the jurisdiction where the Seal is kept one or more official seals, to be used in accordance with procedures approved by the Board.

17 Gift Fund requirements

Company to maintain a Gift Fund

- 17.1 If the Company wishes to be a deductible gift recipient within the meaning of the ITAA97 and to the extent required by law, the Company must maintain at least one Gift Fund in accordance with this clause 17.

Rules applying to the Gift Fund

- 17.2 The following rules apply to any Gift Fund established and maintained by the Company:
- (a) The Gift Fund must have a name.
 - (b) The Company must maintain sufficient documents to provide evidence of the Gift Fund's purpose and operations.
 - (c) The Company must maintain a separate bank account for the Gift Fund.
 - (d) The following must be credited to the Gift Fund:
 - (i) All gifts of money or property to the Company for the Principal Purpose.
 - (ii) All money or property received by the Company because of those gifts.
 - (e) No other money or property may be credited to the Gift Fund.
 - (f) The Company must use any gifts, money or property of the kind referred to in clause 17.2(d) only for the Principal Purpose.

Winding up of Gift Fund

- 17.3 Despite clause 18, if the Company wishes to wind up a Gift Fund or the Company's deductible gift recipient endorsement is revoked (whether or not the company is to be wound

up), any surplus from the Gift Fund must be transferred to one or more charities determined by the Board:

- (a) with charitable purpose(s) similar to, or inclusive of, the objects in clause 2;
- (b) which also prohibit the distribution of any surplus assets to its members to at least the same extent as the Company; and
- (c) that is or are deductible gift recipients within the meaning of the ITAA97.

- 17.4 For the avoidance of doubt, if a Gift Fund operated by the Company is wound up but the Company remains endorsed as a deductible gift recipient and operates any other gift fund in accordance with this clause 17, any surplus from any Gift Fund that is being wound up may be transferred to any other charitable gift fund operated by the Company.

18 Surplus assets on winding up or dissolution

- 18.1 If the Company is wound up, any surplus property must not be distributed to a Member or a former Member unless it is a charity described in clause 18.2.
- 18.2 Subject always to clause 17.3, any court order, the Corporations Act and any other applicable law, upon the winding up or dissolution of the Company any surplus property that remains after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities must be distributed to one or more charities:
- (a) with charitable purposes similar to, or inclusive of, the objects in clause 2;
 - (b) which also prohibit the distribution of any surplus assets to its members to at least the same extent as the Company;
 - (c) that is or are deductible gift recipients within the meaning of ITAA 97; and
 - (d) as determined by ordinary resolution of the Members in general meeting at or before the time of winding up or dissolution of the Company and, in default of any such determination, by the Supreme Court of the State or Territory in which the Office is located.

19 Accounts, audit and records

Accounts

- 19.1 The Board must cause proper accounting and other records to be kept in accordance with the ACNC Act or as otherwise required by law.

Reports

- 19.2 To the extent required by the ACNC Act or otherwise required by law, the Board must cause the company to:
- (a) prepare financial reports;
 - (b) prepare directors' reports;
 - (c) notify each Member of the Member's right to receive reports from the Company; and
 - (d) provide members with reports, in a form and within such timeframe,

as required by the ACNC Act or otherwise required by law.

Audit

- 19.3 A registered company auditor must be appointed. The remuneration of the auditor must be fixed and the auditor's duties regulated in accordance with the Corporations Act or as otherwise required by law.

Rights of inspection

- 19.4 Subject to the Corporations Act:
- (a) The Board may determine whether and to what extent, and at what times and places and under what conditions, the accounting records and other documents of the Company or any of them are open to the inspection of Members, and a Member does not have the right to inspect any document of the Company except as provided by law or authorised by the Board or by the Company in general meeting.
 - (b) Despite clause 19.4(a), the Board may refuse access to a document where the Board (acting reasonably) considers that such access would or would be likely to cause the Company to lose the benefit of any form of evidentiary privilege, including legal professional privilege.

20 Notices

Persons authorised to give notices

- 20.1 A notice by either the Company or a Member in connection with this constitution may be given on behalf of the Company or Member by a solicitor, director, company secretary or other authorised officer of the Company or Member.
- 20.2 The signature of a person on a notice given by the Company may be written, printed or stamped.

Method of giving notices

- 20.3 In addition to the method for giving notices permitted by statute, a notice by the Company or a Member in connection with this constitution may be given to the addressee by any of the following means:
- (a) By delivering it to a street address of the addressee.
 - (b) By sending it by prepaid ordinary post (airmail if outside Australia) to a street or postal address of the addressee.
 - (c) By sending it by facsimile or email to the facsimile number or email address of the addressee.
- 20.4 Clause 20.3 does not limit a Member's right under the Corporations Act to make an election or ad hoc request regarding how such documents be sent to them.

Addresses for giving notices to Members

- 20.5 The street address or postal address of a Member is the street or postal address of the Member shown in the Register.

- 20.6 The facsimile number or email address of a Member is the number which the Member may specify by written notice to the Company as the facsimile number or email address to which notices may be sent to the Member.

Address for giving notices to the Company

- 20.7 The street and postal address of the Company is the Office.
- 20.8 The facsimile number or email address of the Company is the number which the Company may specify by written notice to the Members as the facsimile number or email address to which notices may be sent to the Company.

Time notice of meeting is given

- 20.9 A notice of meeting given in accordance with this constitution is to be taken as given, served and received at the following times:
- (a) If delivered in writing to the street address of the addressee, at the time of delivery.
 - (b) If it is sent by post to the street or postal address of the addressee, on the business day after posting.
 - (c) If sent by facsimile or email to the facsimile number or email address of the addressee, at the time transmission is completed.

Time other notices are given

- 20.10 A notice given in accordance with this constitution is to be taken as given, served and received at the following times:
- (a) If delivered in writing to the street address of the addressee, at the time of delivery.
 - (b) If it is sent by post to the street or postal address of the addressee, on the third (seventh if outside Australia) business day after posting.
 - (c) If sent by facsimile, at the time transmission is completed or if sent by email, when the sender's email system generates a message confirming successful transmission of the entire notice or one hour after the time it is sent (as recorded by the sender's device) whichever occurs first, unless the sender receives an automated message that the email has not been delivered or within eight hours after the transmission the recipient informs the sender that it has not received the entire notice.

Proof of giving notices

- 20.11 A certificate in writing signed by a Director or a Secretary stating that a notice, document or other communication was sent to a Member by delivery, post, facsimile or electronic transmission on a particular date is conclusive evidence that the notice, document or other communication was sent on that date.

Persons entitled to notice of meeting

- 20.12 Notice of every general meeting must be given by a method authorised by this constitution to all of the following persons:
- (a) Every Member.
 - (b) Every Director.

(c) The auditor for the time being of the Company, if any.

20.13 No other person is entitled to receive notices of general meetings.

21 Definitions and interpretation

Definitions

21.1 In this constitution the following definitions apply:

ACNC means the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

ACNC Act means the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cth) and for the avoidance of doubt includes any 'governance standards' prescribed under any related regulations.

AGM means an annual general meeting of the Company.

Application means an application for membership that complies with the requirements of clause 3.8.

Approved Candidate means a person whose candidacy for election as a Director has been approved by the Nominations Committee in accordance with clause 10.13(f)(iii).

Associated Party means each of the following:

- (a) The Company.
- (b) Any Related Body Corporate of the Company.
- (c) Any other body corporate, trust or entity promoted by the Company or in which the Company has an interest of any kind.

Ballot means Members voting on a proposed resolution or other question by means of a ballot conducted in accordance with clause 8.

Board means Directors acting as the board of the Company.

Chair means the Director elected under clause 13.7 to preside as chairperson at Board meetings for the time being.

Company means Healthy North Coast Ltd ACN 154 252 132.

Corporations Act means the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

Deputy Chair means the Director elected under clause 13.8 to preside as chairperson at Board meetings (in the Chair's absence) for the time being.

Director means a person occupying the position of a director of the Company.

Eligible Candidate means a natural person who is eligible at law to be a director.

Eligible Director means a Director who, at the relevant time is not due to retire from office in accordance with clause 10.4 in the next 12 months.

First AGM means the AGM held in 2014, being the first AGM at which all 'Category A' Directors' initial terms of office ended).

Gift Fund means a fund that is maintained for the Principal Purpose.

Health Practitioner means an accredited health practitioner.

Insolvency Event means, in relation to a Member, and subject to the Corporations Act in respect of a Member that is a company registered under the Corporations Act, anything that reasonably indicates that there is a significant risk that the Member is or will become unable to pay its debts as they fall due. This includes any of the following (as applicable):

- (a) A meeting of the Member's creditors being called or held.
- (b) A step being taken to wind the Member up.
- (c) A step being taken to have a receiver, receiver and manager, administrator, liquidator or provisional liquidator appointed to the Member or any of its assets or such an appointment taking place.
- (d) The Member entering into any type of agreement, composition or arrangement with, or assignment for, the benefit of all or any of its creditors.
- (e) The Member ceases or threatens to cease to carry on its main business.

ITAA 97 means *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth).

Member means a person whose name is entered in the Register as a member of the Company.

Nominations Committee means the committee to be established by the Board in accordance with clause 13.22.

Office means the registered office of the Company.

Organisation means a single legal person that is not a natural person. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes a company registered under the Corporations Act and an incorporated association or other body corporate established or registered under another Act of Parliament, but excludes a partnership, trust, unincorporated association, sole trader or other individual human being.

Polling Date means the date by which completed Ballot papers must be received by the applicable returning officer under the terms of the relevant Ballot, as determined in accordance with clause 8.

Principal Purpose means the purposes of the Company as reflected in the objects of the Company specified in clause 2, or any of those purposes.

Region means the applicable geographic region in which the Company conducts its core activities, as may be determined by the Board from time to time. As at the date this constitution is adopted, the Board has determined that the Region is the North Coast New South Wales region, with its approximate boundaries running from Port Macquarie to the Queensland border and extending west to the Great Dividing Range.

Register means the register of Members kept by the Company under the Corporations Act.

Registered Entity means an entity that is registered under the ACNC Act.

Related Body Corporate has the meaning given in the Corporations Act.

Seal means, if the Company has one, the common seal of the Company.

Second AGM means the AGM held in 2015, being the first AGM at which all 'Category B' Directors' initial terms of office ended).

Secretary means a person appointed to perform the duties of a secretary of the Company in accordance with clause 14.

Skills Matrix means any matrix of competencies, skills and/or experience or equivalent document (if any) adopted by the Board from time to time that specifies the desired range of competencies, skills and/or experience to be demonstrated by the Directors and the Board for the time being, taking into account the Company's needs and objectives and other relevant matters at the time.

Termination Event means:

- (a) An Insolvency Event occurs in respect of the Member.
- (b) If a Member is a body corporate, the deregistration or other dissolution of that Member.

Third AGM means the AGM held in 2016, being the first AGM at which all 'Category C' Directors' initial terms of office ended).

Valid Nomination has the meaning set out in clause 10.13(f)(i).

Interpretation

21.2 In this constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) A reference to any law or legislation or legislative provision includes any statutory modification, amendment or re-enactment, and any subordinate legislation or regulations issued under that legislation or legislative provision, in either case whether before, on or after the date of this constitution.
- (b) A reference to any agreement or document is to that agreement or document as amended, novated, supplemented or replaced from time to time.
- (c) A reference to a clause, part, schedule or attachment is a reference to a clause, part, schedule or attachment of or to this constitution.
- (d) Where a word or phrase is given a defined meaning another part of speech or other grammatical form in respect of that word or phrase has a corresponding meaning.
- (e) A word which indicates the singular indicates the plural, a word which indicates the plural indicates the singular, and a reference to any gender indicates the other genders.
- (f) An expression importing a natural person includes any company, trust, partnership, joint venture, association, body corporate or public authority.
- (g) A reference to **dollars** or **\$** means Australian dollars.
- (h) References to the word 'include' or 'including' are to be interpreted without limitation.
- (i) A reference to a time of day means that time of day in the place where the Office is located.
- (j) A reference to a business day means a day other than a Saturday or Sunday on which banks are open for business generally in the place where the Office is located.

- (k) Where a period of time is specified and dates from a given day or the day of an act or event it must be calculated exclusive of that day.
- (l) A term of this constitution which has the effect of requiring anything to be done on or by a date which is not a business day must be interpreted as if it required it to be done on or by the next business day.

References to this constitution

- 21.3 A reference to this constitution, where amended, means this constitution as so amended.

Replaceable rules

- 21.4 Each of the provisions of the Corporations Act which would but for this clause apply to the Company as a replaceable rule within the meaning of the Corporations Act are displaced and do not apply to the Company.

Application of Corporations Act

- 21.5 Unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) An expression used but not defined in this constitution has the same meaning given in the Corporations Act.
- (b) Where an expression referred to in clause 21.5(a) has more than one meaning in the Corporations Act and a provision of the Corporations Act deals with the same matter as the relevant clause of this constitution, the expression has the same meaning as in that provision.
- 21.6 Subject to clause 21.4, for so long as the Company is a Registered Entity the provisions in Part 2G.2 and Part 2G.3 of the Corporations Act about meetings, resolutions and minutes are incorporated into this constitution by reference as if they are repeated in full (excluding any provisions about offences and penalties). To the extent that the ACNC Act or any law or binding regulation of the ACNC applies to the Company and this conflicts with one or more provisions in Part 2G.2 and Part 2G.3 of the Corporations Act, the Company must comply with (as applicable) the ACNC Act or that law or binding regulation, save that it is expressly intended by the Members that the Company must hold an AGM at least once in each calendar year and within five months after the end of its financial year.
- 21.7 For so long as the Company is a Registered Entity, and to the extent required by law, the Company must meet the ACNC's "Governance Standards".

Autis Lulu 26/11/2024
Dr Adrian Gilliland
Chair Healthy North Coast
By Ltd