



Proposed amendments to Canberra Blind Society Constitution – for presentation to Annual General Meeting November 2024

Purpose

To amend the Constitution of the Canberra Blind Society (CBS) to allow for introduction of an annual membership fee.

Background

The cost of CBS membership is currently a one-off fee of \$20.00, payable on joining. This has been in place for many years without increase or review. The Board has discussed an alternative membership cost of \$20.00 per year. The benefits of moving to an annual fee are two-fold. Firstly, it allows for a small ongoing revenue stream for the organisation and secondly, ensures membership information remains current and up to date.

Introducing an annual fee is in keeping with other club and membership organisations. The Board considers \$20.00 to be a reasonable fee given the benefits offered to members. The intention is that the \$20.00 fee be introduced from February 2025 onwards with an information campaign to notify current members and clients of the change to be rolled out after the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting 2024.

Issues

While the Board can set the level of membership fee at its discretion under Rule 7, the CBS Constitution requires amendment to allow for membership to lapse if the fee is not paid. The proposal is to amend Rules 5 and 7 of the Constitution as described below.

Rule 5 currently says:

5. Cessation of membership

- (1) A person ceases to be a member of the Society if the person—
 - (a) dies; or
 - (b) resigns from membership of the Society; or
 - (c) is expelled from the Society.

The proposal is to change Rule 5 to read:

5. Cessation of membership

- (1) A person ceases to be a member of the Society if the person—
 - (a) dies; or
 - (b) resigns from membership of the Society;
 - (c) is expelled from the Society; or
 - (d) has not paid their annual membership by the date specified in Rule 7.

Rule 7 currently says:

7. Fee, subscriptions etc.

- (1) The membership subscription to the Society is an amount as determined by resolution of the board.

The proposal is to change Rule 7 to read:

7. Fee, subscriptions etc

- (1) There is no fee to join the Society.
- (2) The annual fee for membership of the Society (the annual membership subscription) is \$20.00 or the amount determined by resolution of the board.
- (3) The annual membership subscription is due on the yearly anniversary of a member joining the Society and must be paid within the period determined by the Board.
- (4) The anniversary date for members who joined the Society on or after 1 February 2024 will fall at the conclusion of each 12-month period from the date of joining.
- (5) The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual membership subscription within the period determined by the Board under subrule 7 (3) are suspended until subscription is paid.

Recommendation

That the meeting agree to amend the Society's Constitution in the manner set out above.