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# Constitution

**DV West Ltd.**  
**ACN 643 370 889**

A public company limited by guarantee

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## Part A – Preliminary matters

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### 1 Defined terms and interpretation

The Dictionary and Interpretation provisions in Schedule 1:

- (a) define some of the terms used in this constitution;
- (b) set out the rules of interpretation which apply to this constitution; and
- (c) clarify the effect of the Corporations Act on this constitution.

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### 2 Name, nature of company and liability

- (a) The name of the company is DV West or, if the name is lawfully changed in accordance with the Corporations Act and this constitution, that name.
- (b) The company is a public company limited by guarantee which is established to be, and to continue as, a not-for-profit.
- (c) The liability of each member is limited. Each member guarantees to contribute up to a maximum of \$10 to the assets of the company if it is wound up while the member is a member, or within one year afterwards, and at the time of winding up the debts and liabilities of the company exceed its assets. The liability of each member is limited to making such contribution and no more.

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## Part B – Purpose

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### 3 Purpose and activities of the company

#### 3.1 Purpose

The purpose of the company is to provide benevolent relief in the form of services, support and accommodation to women, with and without children, whose lives have been impacted by domestic violence and to assist them to make decisions based on an independent and self-determining lifestyle (**Purpose**).

#### 3.2 Objectives

The objectives of the Company must be conducted in furtherance of its Purpose, and may include:

- (a) providing support, accommodation, programs and activities to women and children that alleviate poverty and distress, promote healing and reduce the effects of domestic violence on their relationships and in their lives;
- (b) providing culturally safe and accessible services that sensitively meet the support meeting the needs of Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse women and children;
- (c) providing outreach services to women in the community and supporting women and children who choose to remain in their homes;

- (d) providing safe and accessible services to lesbian, transgender, bisexual, asexual and intersex women and children;
- (e) providing support and empowerment activities to improve women and children's participation in society and capacity to live an independent and self-determining lifestyle;
- (f) raising community awareness of the drivers of domestic violence, including gender inequality, between those using violence (being predominately men) and those experiencing violence (being predominately women and children) and promoting community responsibility for violence prevention;
- (g) providing leadership in good practice and advocating for the prevention of violence and improved systemic responses; and
- (h) any other activities ancillary to or necessary for the fulfilment of the Purpose.

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## Part C – Members and membership

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### 4 Membership

#### 4.1 Members of the company

- (a) The members of the company are those:
  - (i) noted as such on the application for the incorporation of the company; and
  - (ii) applicants who have been admitted as members of the company in accordance with rule 4.2,and who have not since ceased to be a member.
- (b) If an applicant is admitted as a member of the company, the secretary must ensure that:
  - (i) the applicant is given notice of admission as a member of the company; and
  - (ii) the name and details of the applicant are entered in the members' register in accordance with rule 4.5.
- (c) The secretary must ensure that each applicant not admitted as a member of the company is informed of this decision. The directors may, but are not required to, provide reasons for the decision not to admit an applicant into membership.

#### 4.2 Becoming a member

- (a) To be eligible to become a member of the company an applicant must:
  - (i) be 18 years of age or older;
  - (ii) be a woman; and
  - (iii) have a genuine commitment to and an understanding of the Purpose.
- (b) To become a member of the company an applicant must:

- (i) satisfy the eligibility criteria under rule 4.2(a);
  - (ii) complete and lodge a membership application in such form as determined by the directors from time to time which, for the avoidance of doubt, may include applying through the Internet;
  - (iii) ensure that all information provided when applying for membership of the company is true and accurate and is not misleading or deceptive;
  - (iv) pay any joining and annual fee that may be required under rule 4.6;
  - (v) be admitted into membership by the directors (or their delegate) in such manner as the directors determine; and
  - (vi) satisfy such other membership criteria as the directors may resolve from time to time, acting reasonably.
- (c) The directors may, at their complete discretion, choose to postpone the assessment of all (but not some) membership applications received during the period between the calling of a general meeting and the holding of the general meeting to which the notice relates, or any adjournments of that meeting (including by modifying any application delegations or processes).

#### **4.3 Member's rights**

In addition to the voting rights set out in rule 6.8, each member has the right to receive notices of and to attend and be heard at any general meeting of the company.

#### **4.4 Membership not transferable**

Membership of the company and the associated rights cannot be transferred or sold in any manner whatsoever.

#### **4.5 Register of members**

- (a) The company must maintain a register of members in accordance with the law.
- (b) Without limiting the requirement under rule 4.5(a), the following must be entered in the register in respect of each member:
  - (i) the name and address of the member;
  - (ii) the date of admission to and cessation of membership; and
  - (iii) any other information required by the directors or the law from time to time.
- (c) Members may inspect the register, free of charge, at the premises where the register is maintained by giving reasonable notice to the company.
- (d) A member must not use information about a person obtained from the register to contact or send material to the person, other than for:
  - (i) the purpose of sending the person a newsletter, a notice in respect of a meeting or other event relating to the company or other material relating to the company; or

- (ii) any other purpose necessary to comply with a requirement of the Corporations Act.

#### 4.6 Membership fees

- (a) Unless a different amount applies as determined under rule 4.6(d), there is no fee payable to become a member of the company
- (b) Unless a different amount applies as determined under rule 4.6(d), there is no annual fee payable for membership of the company.
- (c) Other than the initial membership fee that may be payable under rule 4.6(b), annual membership fees (if any) are to be paid at such times and in such manner as the directors determine from time to time.
- (d) The directors may at their complete discretion:
  - (i) determine that the joining fee and/or the annual membership fee be a different amount;
  - (ii) determine that the joining fee and/or membership fee payable by one or more members be payable at a different time or times, including by instalments; and
  - (iii) determine, or waive all or some of, the fees payable by one or more members at any time.
- (e) A member who has not paid the required membership fee in accordance with this rule 4.6 may not exercise any of the rights associated with that member's membership, including the right to exercise any vote the member may have at a meeting of members.
- (f) The joining fee and annual membership fee that may be required under this rule 4.6 are exclusive of any GST that may be payable.
- (g) For the avoidance of doubt, where a membership fee is payable by instalments pursuant to rule 4.6(d)(ii), any reference in this constitution to a membership fee includes an instalment of a membership fee.

#### 4.7 Membership renewal

The directors may, at their discretion, send a notice to one or more members requiring that member to confirm or to renew membership of the company and/or to confirm or update that member's details (**Membership Renewal Notice**).

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## 5 Ceasing to be a member

### 5.1 General overview

- (a) There are a number of reasons a member's membership will cease . For instance, if a member:
  - (i) resigns from membership (see rule 5.2);
  - (ii) automatically stops being a member (see rule 5.3); or

- (iii) is expelled from membership (see rule 5.4).
- (b) The directors may adopt such other policies and procedures relating to the disciplining, suspension and expulsion of members as they so determine from time to time provided they are consistent with the requirements set out in this rule 5.
- (c) Where a member ceases to be a member in accordance with the law or this constitution that member's name must be removed from the register of members.
- (d) Upon the removal of a member's name from the register of members:
  - (i) the member will forfeit all rights and privileges attached to membership and all rights which that member may have against the company arising out of the membership; and
  - (ii) the company will have no liability to such member in respect of that member's removal from the register of members.
- (e) Any member that ceases to be a member remains liable for:
  - (i) any moneys which may be owing by that member to the company; and
  - (ii) in the case of the company being wound up within one year of the date of cessation of membership, the relevant contribution under rule 2(c).

## **5.2 Resignation from membership**

A member may resign from membership of the company at any time by providing written notice to the company addressed to the Chairperson or the secretary. Unless the notice provides otherwise, the resignation takes effect from the date the notice is received.

## **5.3 Automatic stopping of membership**

A member's membership will automatically stop if the member:

- (a) dies;
- (b) fails to pay any required membership fee in accordance with rule 4.6 within three months after the date on which that membership fee becomes due or such later time as the directors may determine;
- (c) fails to return a Membership Renewal Notice in accordance with rule 4.7 within three months after the return due date specified in that notice or such later time as determined by the directors; or
- (d) no longer complies with the membership requirements described at rule 4.2 as determined by the directors.

## **5.4 Disciplining, suspension and expulsion of members**

- (a) This rule 5.4 describes what needs to happen when considering whether to discipline a member. In summary, the process involves:
  - (i) putting the member in question on notice and giving the opportunity to provide information; and

- (ii) passing a directors' resolution to warn, suspend, expel or otherwise discipline that member.
- (b) Provided the steps set out in this rule 5.4 are followed, the directors may resolve to warn, suspend, expel or otherwise discipline a member if that member:
  - (i) has refused or failed to comply with the provisions of this constitution; or
  - (ii) has acted in a way that, in the opinion of the directors, is, or could be, prejudicial to the interests or reputation of the company,

**(Member Disciplinary Resolution).**

- (c) The directors must give the member in question at least 14 days' prior notice of the date that the directors will consider the Member Disciplinary Resolution. This notice must be in writing and inform the member:
  - (i) that the directors are to consider warning, suspending, expelling or otherwise disciplining the member (as the case may be);
  - (ii) of the reasons why the directors are considering taking the determined action;
  - (iii) of the right for the member to give the directors, either orally or in writing, any explanation or defence relevant to the proposed disciplinary action;
  - (iv) of the date, place and time of the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered; and
  - (v) of the right for the member to attend the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered but not to be present during any director deliberations or the putting of or voting on the resolution unless the directors resolve otherwise.
- (d) Where a director is also a member subject to a Member Disciplinary Resolution that director is not entitled to vote on the relevant Member Disciplinary Resolution.
- (e) Where a Member Disciplinary Resolution relates to the expulsion of a member, such resolution must be passed as a special resolution of at least 75% of directors. Any other Member Disciplinary Resolution, including in relation to the warning or suspension of a member, may be passed as an ordinary resolution of directors.
- (f) Directors must notify the relevant member in writing about the directors' decision within 14 days after the date a Member Disciplinary Resolution is passed, but failure to do so does not invalidate the decision.
- (g) The directors' decision in relation to the Member Disciplinary Resolution is final and, provided notice is given in accordance with rule 5.4(f), takes effect as at the date the Member Disciplinary Resolution is passed.

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## 6 General meetings

### 6.1 Calling of general meetings

A general meeting of members may be initiated by:

- (a) a resolution of the directors;

- (b) the members in accordance with the Corporations Act; or
- (c) the court in accordance with the Corporations Act.

## **6.2 Notice of general meetings**

- (a) Subject to the provisions of the Corporations Act dealing with consent to short notice, if a general meeting of members (including any annual general meeting) is called under rule 6.1, at least 21 days' notice of that meeting must be given to each person who is at the date of the notice:
  - (i) a member of the company eligible to receive notices of meetings;
  - (ii) a director of the company; or
  - (iii) the auditor of the company.
- (b) A notice of a general meeting must specify:
  - (i) the date, time and place of the meeting;
  - (ii) if the meeting is to be held in two or more places, the technology that will be used to facilitate the meeting;
  - (iii) the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting, including the text of any resolutions to be proposed at the meeting; and
  - (iv) any other matters required under the law.
- (c) A person who is entitled to receive notice of a general meeting or who is requested by the Chairperson to attend a general meeting is entitled to be present whether or not the person is a member.

## **6.3 Annual general meetings**

- (a) The company must hold annual general meetings in accordance with the Corporations Act.
- (b) Notwithstanding rule 6.2(b), the ordinary business of an annual general meeting may include any of the following, even if not referred to in the notice of meeting:
  - (i) the consideration of the annual financial report, the directors' report and the auditor's report;
  - (ii) the election and appointment of directors; and
  - (iii) the appointment of the auditor and the fixing of the auditor's remuneration.

## **6.4 Quorum at general meetings**

- (a) No business may be transacted at any general meeting, except the election of a chair (if required) and the adjournment of the meeting, unless a quorum is present when the meeting proceeds to business and the quorum remains present throughout the meeting.
- (b) The quorum for a general meeting of members is three members present in person and entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting

- (c) If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for a general meeting:
  - (i) where the meeting was convened by, or at the request of, a member or members, the meeting must be dissolved; or
  - (ii) where the meeting was convened by, or at the request of, the directors or the court:
    - (A) the meeting stands adjourned to the day, and at the time and place, as the directors determine or, if no determination is made by the directors, to the same day in the next week at the same time and place;
    - (B) at the adjourned meeting the quorum is three members present in person and entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting; and
    - (C) if, at the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting must be dissolved.

## **6.5 Chair of general meetings**

- (a) Subject to rule 6.5(b), the Chairperson must preside as chair at each general meeting.
- (b) If at a general meeting:
  - (i) there is no Chairperson;
  - (ii) the Chairperson is absent from the meeting (or part of the meeting); or
  - (iii) the Chairperson is present but is prevented from acting or not willing to act as chair of the meeting or of part of the meeting,

the Vice-Chairperson (if there is one) must preside as chair of that meeting or part of it until such time as the Chairperson joins the general meeting or can resume the role of chair (as applicable).

- (c) Subject to rules 6.5(a) and 6.5(b), if at a general meeting:
  - (i) there is no Chairperson and no Vice-Chairperson;
  - (ii) the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent from the meeting (or part of the meeting); or
  - (iii) the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are present but are prevented from acting or not willing to act as chair of the meeting or of part of the meeting,

the members present may elect a person present to be chair of that meeting or part of it until such time as the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson joins the general meeting or can resume the role of chair (as applicable).

## **6.6 Conduct of and participation in general meetings**

- (a) The chair of a general meeting is responsible for the special conduct of the meeting and for the procedures to be adopted at the meeting and may require the adoption of any procedures which are in the opinion of the chair necessary or desirable for:
  - (i) proper and orderly debate or discussion; and
  - (ii) the proper and orderly casting or recording of votes.
- (b) The chair of a general meeting at which a quorum is present must if so directed by the members present with a majority of votes, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place. However, no business is to be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- (c) Notice of an adjournment and the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting must be given to all persons who were entitled to receive notice of the meeting the subject of the adjournment.
- (d) In addition to the rights provided for in rule 6.2(a)(iii) and 6.2(c), the auditor of the company (if any) shall be entitled to be heard at any general meeting which the auditor attends.
- (e) A meeting of members may be held in two or more places linked together by any technology provided it:
  - (i) gives the members as a whole in those places a reasonable opportunity to participate in proceedings;
  - (ii) enables the chair to determine whether the person participating in the meeting is in fact a member;
  - (iii) enables the chair of the meeting to be aware of proceedings in each place; and
  - (iv) enables the members in each place to vote on a Show of Preference and on a poll.

## 6.7 Decisions at general meetings

- (a) Except in the case of any resolution which under this constitution or as a matter of law requires a special resolution, questions arising at a general meeting are to be decided by a majority of votes cast by the members present at the meeting (including being present by technological means) and who are entitled to vote. Such decision is then for all purposes a decision of the members.
- (b) In the case of an equality of votes upon any proposed resolution at a meeting of members the chair may exercise a second or casting vote in addition to any vote the chair may have as a member of the company.
- (c) Unless a poll is demanded, a resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of preference of members, with each member present indicating a preference by a means appropriate to that member and that is readily interpreted and understood by the chair (**Show of Preference**).
- (d) A member may only exercise one vote on a Show of Preference.

- (e) A poll may be demanded before a vote being decided by a Show of Preference is taken or before or immediately after the declaration of the result of the Show of Preference:
  - (i) by the chair of the meeting;
  - (ii) by at least five members present and entitled to vote on the relevant resolution; or
  - (iii) by a member or members present at the meeting and representing at least 5% of the votes that may be cast on the resolution on a poll.
- (f) Unless a poll is demanded, a declaration by the chair on the result of a vote on a Show of Preference is decisive of the outcome of that resolution. Such declaration does not need to refer to the number or proportion of votes for or against the resolution.
- (g) Except for a poll on the question of an adjournment which must be taken immediately, if a poll is demanded at a general meeting, it will be taken when and in the manner that the chair directs, and in all cases the result of the poll will be recorded as a resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.
- (h) A poll cannot be demanded at a general meeting on the appointment of a chair of the meeting.
- (i) The demand for a poll may be withdrawn.

## **6.8 Voting rights**

- (a) Each member has the right to exercise one vote:
  - (i) on a Show of Preference at a meeting of members;
  - (ii) on a poll at a meeting of members; and
  - (iii) when voting upon a resolution to be determined without a meeting under rule 6.10(b)(iv).
- (b) An objection to the qualification of a person to vote at a general meeting:
  - (i) must be raised before or immediately after the result of the resolution for which the vote objected to is given; and
  - (ii) must be referred to the chair of the meeting, whose decision is final.
- (c) A vote not disallowed by the chair of a meeting under rule 6.8(b) is valid for all purposes.

## **6.9 Representation at general meetings**

- (a) Subject to this constitution, each member entitled to vote at a meeting of members may vote in person or through other means as approved by directors from time to time.
- (b) Proxy votes must not be undertaken at or in respect of a general meeting.

## **6.10 Meetings conducted using technological means**

- (a) Subject to the Corporations Act and this constitution, the contemporaneous linking together by a form of technology of a number of members sufficient to constitute a quorum constitutes a general meeting.
- (b) Where a general meeting is held at two or more venues using any form of technology:
  - (i) a member participating in the meeting is taken to be present in person at the meeting;
  - (ii) the provisions of this constitution relating to general meetings apply, so far as they can and with such changes as are necessary, to general meetings held using that technology;
  - (iii) the meeting is taken to be held at the place determined by the chair provided that at least one of the members present at the meeting was at the place for the duration of the general meeting; and
  - (iv) the conduct of the meeting must comply with any policies and procedures relating to the meetings conducted using technological means as determined by the directors from time to time.
- (c) If the technology used in rule 6.10(b) encounters a technical difficulty, whether before or during the general meeting, which results in a member not being able to participate in the meeting, the chair may, subject to the Corporations Act and the requirements of rule 6.3 being satisfied:
  - (i) allow the meeting to continue; or
  - (ii) adjourn the meeting either for a reasonable period of time as may be required to fix the technology or to such other date, time and location as the chair of the meeting considers appropriate.
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt, where the chair has allowed the general meeting to continue in accordance with rule 6.10(c)(i), any resolution passed at that meeting is valid.
- (e) Subject to the Corporations Act and this constitution, the directors may make policies and procedures relating to the passing of member resolutions by technological means as determined by the directors from time to time.

## **6.11 Decisions without meetings**

Unless the Corporations Act requires the holding of a meeting, members may pass resolutions and otherwise make decisions outside of a members' meeting in any manner (including through the use of technology) provided:

- (a) all members entitled to vote on the resolutions are sent a copy of the resolutions and are given a reasonable time to respond considering the urgency and nature of the matters under consideration;
- (b) each such resolution is passed by at least a majority of all current members (unless a higher number or threshold is required under this constitution or by law); and
- (c) such manner complies with:

- (i) the law; and
- (ii) any policies and procedures relating to the passing of member resolutions as determined by the directors from time to time.

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## Part D – Not-for-profit

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### 7 No profits for members

- (a) Subject to rule 7(b), the assets and income of the company must be applied solely in furtherance of the Purpose and no portion of the income or assets of the company may be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, to any member.
- (b) The company may, with the approval of the directors, make payment in good faith to a member of the company:
  - (i) by way of reasonable and proper payment for any goods supplied or services rendered to the company (including payment as a consultant or employee);
  - (ii) by way of interest on money lent to the company by that member at a reasonable and proper rate per annum not exceeding the rate for the time being charged by the company's bankers on overdrawn accounts;
  - (iii) by way of reasonable and proper rent for premises let by that member to the company;
  - (iv) by way of a grant (or similar contribution) awarded in furtherance of the Purpose;
  - (v) as a result of the member's participation in a social bond or similar program of the company; and
  - (vi) for authorised out-of-pocket expenses reasonably and properly incurred by that member in connection with the affairs of the company.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this rule 7:
  - (i) prevents a member from receiving such services as may ordinarily be provided by the company in the course of undertaking its activities; or
  - (ii) prohibits a member from receiving a minor benefit that is directly related to membership of the company.

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## Part E – Directors and secretary

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### 8 Directors

#### 8.1 Number of directors

- (a) The minimum number of directors is three. Subject to rule 8.1(b), the maximum number of directors is nine.

- (b) The directors may change the maximum number of permitted director positions in the manner required by the Corporations Act.
- (c) If at any time the number of directors falls below three, the remaining director or directors may act but only:
  - (i) in an emergency;
  - (ii) for the purpose of convening a general meeting of the company; or
  - (iii) for the purpose of increasing the number of directors to three.

## 8.2 Becoming a director

Subject to rule 8.3, a person may become a director of the company in the following ways:

- (a) election by members pursuant to rule 8.4 (**Member Elected Directors**);
- (b) appointment by the directors (**Board Appointed Directors**);
- (c) appointment following Conversion of the company pursuant to rule 8.22 (**Initial Directors**); and
- (d) appointment by the directors to fill any vacancy in the number of Member Elected Directors however arising (**Casual Vacancy**).

## 8.3 Composition of directors

Subject to rule 8.2(d):

- (a) six director positions are reserved for, and may only be filled by, Member Elected Directors; and
- (b) the remaining director positions are reserved for, and may only be filled by, Board Appointed Directors when in the opinion of the directors (acting reasonably), the company requires individuals with certain skills or experience, or if the election of an individual would provide the Company with a greater level of representation.

## 8.4 Member Elected Directors

- (a) A member may nominate a candidate for election as a director by delivering to the secretary a written nomination at least 7 days before an annual general meeting at which an election to the board is to take place (**Member Nomination**).
- (b) If the number of Member Nominations received is equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected unopposed and, for the avoidance of doubt, no election needs to be conducted.
- (c) If the number of Member Nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot is to be conducted in such usual and proper manner as the directors may direct which may, for the avoidance of doubt, be a written ballot conducted immediately prior to the annual general meeting.

## **8.5 Qualifications and requirements of directors**

- (a) To be eligible for election as a Member Elected Director under rule 8.2(a) a person must:
  - (i) be a member of the company;
  - (ii) be 18 years of age or older;
  - (iii) be nominated pursuant to rule 8.4;
  - (iv) not be ineligible to be a director under the Corporations Act;
  - (v) have knowledge about and be committed to the Purpose;
  - (vi) not be an employee of the company; and
  - (vii) meet any other criteria relating to the composition of the board and skills and qualifications of directors as may be determined by the directors from time to time.
- (b) To be eligible to fill a Board Appointed Director position under rule 8.2(b) or to be appointed by the directors to fill a Casual Vacancy under rule 8.2(d), the person must comply with all the requirements of rule 8.5(a) other than the requirement to be a member or be nominated by a member.

## **8.6 Directors' term of office and term limits**

- (a) The term of office of a Member Elected Director commences at the conclusion of the annual general meeting at which the election occurs or the results are declared and continues until the conclusion of the third annual general meeting following that director's election, when the director will be eligible for re-election.
- (b) The term of office of a Board Appointed Director commences on the date that person is appointed as a director and continues for the period determined by the directors at the time of appointment – such period not to exceed three years.
- (c) The term of office for a Casual Vacancy commences on the date that person is appointed as a director and continues until the end of the next annual general meeting.
- (d) Each director is to remain as a director until that person's term of office expires or until that person resigns or is otherwise removed as a director of the company in accordance with the law and this constitution.
- (e) A person who holds, or has held, the position of director is not restricted in how many terms of office that person may serve and is eligible for re-election or reappointment (as the case may be).

## **8.7 Ceasing to be a director**

- (a) In addition to the circumstances prescribed by law (including the Corporations Act), the office of any director becomes vacant if the director:
  - (i) dies;

- (ii) ceases to satisfy any of the eligibility criteria as set out in rule 8.5;
  - (iii) is, due to physical or mental impairment, unable to properly perform the duties of a director, as determined by a suitably qualified professional acting reasonably;
  - (iv) is convicted of an indictable offence; or
  - (v) fails to attend three or more consecutive directors' meetings in any 12 month period without leave of absence approved by the directors; or
  - (vi) is prohibited from being a director of a company under the Corporations Act.
- (b) Nothing in rule 8.7(a) prevents a director from vacating office by providing a written notice of resignation to the company addressed to the Chairperson or the secretary. Unless the notice provides otherwise, the resignation takes effect from the date the notice is received.

## **8.8 Payments to directors**

- (a) Directors must not receive any payment for acting as a director but, subject to rule 8.8(b), each director is entitled to:
- (i) be reimbursed for all reasonable authorised travelling and other expenses properly incurred by them in connection with the affairs of the company, including attending and returning from general meetings of the company, meetings of the directors and meetings of committees; and
  - (ii) receive payment for any goods supplied or services rendered to the company (other than in their role as a director), as long as the amount is proper and reasonable in the circumstances.
- (b) Notwithstanding anything else in this constitution, no payment of any kind can be made by the company to a director unless that payment is approved by:
- (i) the directors (but such determination must not include the director for which the determination of remuneration is being made); or
  - (ii) such other person or persons to whom the directors may have delegated such authority in a way consistent with rule 8.19 or rule 8.20.

## **8.9 Interested directors**

- (a) No contract made by a director with the company and no contract or arrangement entered into by or on behalf of the company in which any director may be in any way interested is voided or rendered voidable merely because the director holds office as a director or because of the fiduciary obligations arising out of that office.
- (b) Each director must disclose all personal interests and other matters that could, or do, give rise to a conflict of interest in relation to a matter or decision being considered by the directors.
- (c) Where a director has a material personal interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting, that director must not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting or vote on the matter, unless the directors who do not have a material personal interest pass a resolution in accordance with the Corporations Act which permits that director to do so.

- (d) If rule 8.9(c) operates to the effect that there are not enough directors to form a quorum for a directors' meeting, one or more directors (including those who have a material personal interest) may call a general meeting and the general meeting may pass a resolution to deal with the matter.
- (e) Subject to rule 8.9(f), a director who is in any way interested in a contract or arrangement (other than by having a material personal interest which is to be dealt with in accordance with rule 8.9(c)) may, despite that interest:
  - (i) be counted in determining whether or not a quorum is present at any meeting of directors considering that contract or arrangement;
  - (ii) sign or countersign any document relating to that contract or arrangement; and
  - (iii) remain present in the meeting and vote in relation to that contract or arrangement or any matter arising out of those things.
- (f) Rule 8.9(e) does not apply if, and to the extent that, it would be contrary to law.

#### **8.10 Powers and duties of directors**

The directors are responsible for the governance, business and affairs of the company and may exercise all the powers of the company which are not required by the law or this constitution to be exercised by the members.

#### **8.11 Directors' meetings**

- (a) The directors may hold meetings (including by technological means) for the conduct of business and regulate them as they think fit.
- (b) The directors should meet as often as required for the proper discharge of their directors' duties and in any event no less than four times per year.

#### **8.12 Convening of meetings of directors**

A meeting of directors may be convened by the Chairperson or any director.

#### **8.13 Notice of directors' meetings**

- (a) Notice of a directors' meeting must be given to each current director, other than a director on leave of absence approved by the directors.
- (b) Notice of a directors' meeting may be delivered orally or in writing by the secretary at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting (or such other period as may be unanimously agreed in writing by all directors)
- (c) A notice of a directors' meeting must:
  - (i) specify the time and place of and, if relevant, the form of technology for, the meeting; and
  - (ii) state the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- (d) No business other than the business described in the notice of meeting may be transacted at the meeting, unless the directors unanimously agree that a matter is urgent business and should be transacted at the meeting.

- (e) A resolution passed at a directors' meeting is valid even in circumstances where a director did not receive notice of the meeting provided:
  - (i) the notice was not received because of accident or error; or
  - (ii) the director attended the meeting.

#### **8.14 Quorum for directors' meetings**

- (a) No business may be transacted at a directors' meeting unless there is a quorum of directors at the time the business is dealt with.
- (b) A quorum consists of three current directors.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, a director is present at a meeting if participating by technological means such as by telephone.
- (d) If, within one hour after the time appointed for the meeting, a quorum is not present, then, without prejudice to the right of those present to discuss but not to vote on any matter, the meeting will stand adjourned to such time, date and place as those present at the meeting decide (provided such date is not less than 7 days and not more than 21 days after the adjourned meeting) and as notified to all directors in accordance with rule 8.13(a).
- (e) If, within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present, then the meeting is to be dissolved.

#### **8.15 Office bearers**

- (a) The directors must elect from among themselves:
  - (i) a Chairperson;
  - (ii) a Vice-Chairperson; and
  - (iii) any other position of office as it determines from time to time.
- (b) The directors may elect to remove a director elected to the positions referred to in 8.15(a) above.
- (c) A person may only fill the positions referred to in 8.15(a) for so long as that person is a director of the company.
- (d) The directors may, subject to rules 8.15(b) and 8.15(c), determine the period for which the director is to hold a position determined under rule 8.15(a).
- (e) A director may hold up to 2 positions other than both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

#### **8.16 Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

- (a) Subject to rule 8.16(b), the Chairperson must preside as chair at each directors' meeting.
- (b) If at a meeting of directors:
  - (i) there is no Chairperson;

- (ii) the Chairperson is absent from the meeting (or part of the meeting); or
- (iii) the Chairperson is present but is prevented from acting or not willing to act as chair of the meeting or of part of the meeting,

the Vice-Chairperson (if there is one) must preside as chair of that meeting or part of it until such time as the Chairperson joins the meeting or can resume the role of chair (as applicable).

(c) Subject to rules 8.16(a) and 8.16(b), if at a meeting of directors:

- (i) there is no Chairperson and no Vice-Chairperson;
- (ii) the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent from the meeting (or part of the meeting); or
- (iii) the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are present but are prevented from acting or not willing to act as chair of the meeting or of part of the meeting,

the directors present may elect one of themselves to be chair of the meeting or part of the meeting until such time as the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson joins the meeting or can resume the role of chair (as applicable).

### **8.17 Decisions of directors**

- (a) A directors' meeting at which a quorum is present is competent to exercise all or any of the authorities, powers and discretions vested in or exercisable by the directors under the law and this constitution.
- (b) Questions arising at a directors' meeting and any other matter to be determined by the directors under this constitution are (unless a higher number or threshold is required under the law or this constitution) to be decided by a majority of votes cast by the directors present. A decision of a kind made in accordance with this rule is for all purposes a determination of the directors.
- (c) Each director present at the meeting is entitled to one vote.
- (d) If there are an equal number of votes cast for and against a resolution at a directors' meeting, then the chair may exercise a second or casting vote in addition to any vote the chair may have as a director of the company.

### **8.18 Decisions without meetings**

Directors may pass resolutions outside of a directors' meeting in any manner (including through the use of technology) provided:

- (a) all directors other than a director on an approved leave of absence are sent a copy of the resolutions and are given a reasonable time to respond considering the urgency and nature of the matters under consideration;
- (b) any such resolution is passed by at least a majority of all current directors (unless a higher threshold is required by law or this constitution); and
- (c) such manner complies with:
  - (i) the law; and

- (ii) any policies and procedures relating to the passing of director resolutions as determined by the directors from time to time.

### **8.19 Committees**

- (a) The directors may resolve to:
  - (i) establish one or more committees consisting of such persons as they determine;
  - (ii) delegate in writing to each committee such of their powers required for the effective and efficient running and administration of the committee;
  - (iii) revoke any or all of the powers delegated to each committee and vary the nature and scope of the powers delegated; and
  - (iv) change the makeup of a committee at any time or dissolve it all together.
- (b) A committee must be conducted, and exercise the powers delegated to it, in accordance with any directions of the directors which, for the avoidance of doubt, may be contained within policies, terms of reference, guidelines or protocols.
- (c) Any act or thing done or suffered by a committee acting in the exercise of a delegation as the same force and effect as it would had it been done or suffered by the board of directors.
- (d) The directors may continue to exercise all of their powers despite any delegation made under this rule.

### **8.20 Delegation to individuals**

- (a) The directors may resolve to delegate any of their powers to such individual or individuals as they so determine including:
  - (i) to one or more directors;
  - (ii) to one or more members; or
  - (iii) to one or more employees.
- (b) The directors may delegate their powers for such time as they determine and may revoke or vary any power so delegated.
- (c) A person to whom any powers have been delegated must exercise the powers delegated in accordance with any directions of the directors.
- (d) The directors may continue to exercise all of their powers despite any delegation.
- (e) A delegation under this rule need not be to a specified person but may be to any person from time to time holding, occupying or performing the duties of a specified office or position.

## 8.21 Validity of acts

An act done by a director or by a meeting of the directors or a committee attended by a director is not invalid just because:

- (a) of a defect in the appointment of the director;
- (b) the person is disqualified from being a director or has vacated office; or
- (c) the person is not entitled to vote,

if that circumstance was not known by the person or the directors or committee, as the case may be, when the act was done.

## 8.22 Transition provisions for directors

- (a) Each person on the Association's governing board prior to Conversion will continue in office as a director of the company (**Initial Directors**). Subject to clause 8.7:
  - (i) 50% (rounded down to the nearest whole number) of the Initial Directors hold office until the conclusion of the second annual general meeting after the adoption of this constitution after which the person will be eligible for re-election or reappointment (as the case may be) pursuant to the terms of this constitution; and
  - (ii) the remaining Initial Directors hold office until the conclusion of the third annual general meeting after the adoption of this constitution, after which the person will be eligible for re-election or reappointment (as the case may be) pursuant to the terms of this constitution.
- (b) The directors must determine which of the Initial Directors hold office for the term set out in clause 8.22(a)(i) and which of the Initial Directors hold office for the term set out in clause 8.22(a)(ii) by drawing straws at the first meeting of directors following adoption of this constitution.

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## 9 Secretaries

- (a) The directors must appoint at least one secretary who must also be a director.
- (b) The appointment of a secretary may be for the period, on the conditions and subject to rule 9(c), at the remuneration as the directors determine.
- (c) A director may not be remunerated in that person's capacity as secretary.
- (d) Subject to any contract between the company and the relevant secretary, a secretary of the company may be removed or dismissed by the directors at any time, with or without cause. If that person is a director, such removal or dismissal does not remove that person from office as a director.
- (e) The duties of the secretary include:
  - (i) ensuring that the necessary registers required by the law are established and properly maintained;
  - (ii) ensuring that any required annual returns and annual reports are lodged with the appropriate regulator on time; and

- (iii) ensuring the organisation of, and attendance at, meetings of the members and the directors, including the sending out of notices, the preparation of agenda and the compilation of minutes.
  - (f) An act done by a person acting as a secretary is not invalid just because:
    - (i) of a defect in the person's appointment as a secretary; or
    - (ii) the person is disqualified from being a secretary,if that circumstance was not known by the person or the directors when the act was done.
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## Part F – Winding up

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### 10 Winding up

#### 10.1 Winding up

- (a) If upon the winding up or dissolution of the company there remains after satisfaction of all of its debts and liabilities, any property or moneys whatsoever (**Surplus Assets**), such Surplus Assets must not be paid to, or distributed amongst members, but must be given or transferred to an organisation or organisations that:
  - (i) has objects or purposes similar to those of the company;
  - (ii) by its constituent rules, prohibits the distribution of its income and property amongst its members to an extent at least as great as is imposed upon the company; and
  - (iii) if the company is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient, is likewise endorsed as a deductible gift recipient for the purpose of any Commonwealth tax law.
- (b) The decision as to which organisation is, or which organisations are, to be the recipient of the Surplus Assets distributed in accordance with rule 10.1(a):
  - (i) is to be determined by the directors at or before the winding up or dissolution of the company; or
  - (ii) if required, by the Court.
- (c) Any part of the Surplus Assets consisting of property supplied by a government department or public authority, including any unexpended portion of a grant, must be returned to, or otherwise dealt with in the way directed by, the department or authority that supplied it.

#### 10.2 Loss of endorsement

If the endorsement of the company as a DGR is revoked, the following assets remaining after the payment of the company's liabilities must be transferred to a charitable fund, authority or institution to which income tax deductible gifts can be made:

- (a) deductible gifts of money or property received for the principal purpose of the company;

- (b) deductible contributions made in relation to an eligible fundraising event held to raise funds for the principal purpose of the company; and
- (c) money received by the company because of such deductible gifts and contributions.

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## Part G – Administrative matters

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### 11 Minutes, records and negotiable instruments

#### 11.1 Minutes

The directors must ensure that the following minutes are recorded, approved and kept in accordance with the law:

- (a) meetings and resolutions of members (including those made without meetings under rule 6.11);
- (b) meetings and resolutions of directors (including those made without meetings under rule 8.18); and
- (c) meetings and resolutions of committees.

#### 11.2 Inspection of records

- (a) Subject to the law and rule 11.2(b), the directors may determine whether and to what extent, and at what time and places and under what conditions, the minute books, accounting records and other documents of the company or any of them will be open for inspection.
- (b) A member may, upon reasonable notice to the directors, inspect any books, records or documents of the company, provided the information obtained is only used for a proper purpose in connection with membership of the company.
- (c) The company must establish and administer all registers required to be kept by law and each member must provide the company with such information as is required for the company to comply with this rule. If events occur which would cause the information contained in a register maintained by the company to be inaccurate the member must notify the company in writing of the change within 21 days of the member becoming aware that such change has occurred.
- (d) Unless proved incorrect, the register is sufficient evidence of the matters shown in the register.
- (e) The company must keep all financial and other records required by law.

#### 11.3 Negotiable instruments

The directors may determine how cheques, promissory notes, banker's drafts, bills of exchange or other negotiable instruments or other documents must be signed, drawn, accepted, endorsed or otherwise executed, as the case may be, by or on behalf of the company.

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## 12 Indemnity and insurance

- (a) To the extent permitted by law, the company indemnifies its officers (both current and past) for all losses or liabilities incurred by the person as an officer of the company including, but not limited to, a liability for negligence or for legal costs on a full indemnity basis.
- (b) This indemnity:
  - (i) may only be for losses or liabilities incurred as an officer of the company (either before or after the adoption of this rule);
  - (ii) does not cover any loss or liability of an officer seeking to be indemnified under this rule if that loss or liability arises from that person's wilful misconduct or fraud; and
  - (iii) operates only to the extent that the loss or liability is not paid by insurance.
- (c) To the extent permitted by law, the company may take out and pay for insurance for the benefit of its officers (both current and past) against any liability incurred by the person as an officer of the company including, but not limited to, a liability for negligence or for legal costs.
- (d) To the extent permitted by law, the company may enter into an agreement (including a deed) with a person who is or agrees to become or has been an officer of the company on any terms and conditions that the directors think fit to give effect to the rights of that person under this rule 11.3. Any such agreement may also give the person rights to inspect and obtain copies of the books of the company for the purposes, and on such other terms and conditions, as the directors decide.

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## 13 Notices

### 13.1 Giving of notices

Any notice, document or other communication required or permitted to be given under this constitution or law may be given in any manner (including through the use of technology) provided such manner complies with:

- (a) the law; and
- (b) any policies and procedures relating to the giving and receiving of notices, documents and other communications as determined by the directors from time to time.

### 13.2 Timing of services

- (a) Where a notice is served personally, service of the notice is taken to be effected when delivered.
- (b) Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice is taken to be effected if a prepaid envelope containing the notice is properly addressed and placed in the post:
  - (i) in the case of a notice of a general meeting, on the day after the date of its posting; or

- (ii) in any other case, at the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.
  - (c) Where a notice is sent by electronic means, including email or fax, service of the notice is taken to be effected:
    - (i) when the sender receives an automated message confirming delivery; or
    - (ii) 30 minutes after the time sent (as recorded on the device from which the sender sent the email) unless the sender receives an automated message that the notice has not been delivered,whichever happens first.
  - (d) If the delivery or receipt of a notice is on a day which is not a Business Day or is after 5.00pm on a Business Day it is deemed to be received at 9.00am on the following Business Day.
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## 14 General

- (a) **Common seal:** The company may, but is not required to, have and use a common seal. If the directors determine that the company have a common seal, then it must be kept and used in accordance with the law.
- (b) **Formulating rules:** Without limiting the directors' powers under this constitution, the directors may from time to time make regulations and rules about any matter related to the operations or conduct of the company, provided such regulations and rules are not inconsistent with the law or this constitution. If there is any inconsistency between regulations and rules formulated pursuant to this rule 14(b) and the provisions of this constitution or the law, the provisions of this constitution and the law will prevail.
- (c) **Submission to jurisdiction:** Each member submits to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the State of New South Wales, the Federal Court of Australia and the Courts which may hear appeals from those Courts.

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## Schedule 1 Dictionary

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### 1 Dictionary

In this constitution:

**Association means** West Connect Domestic Violence Services Incorporated (with incorporation number NSW INC Y2513144).

**Board Appointed Directors** has the meaning given at rule 8.2(b).

**Business Day** means a day on which banks are open for business excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays in the place where the company's registered office is located.

**Casual Vacancy** has the meaning given at rule 8.2(d).

**Chairperson** has the meaning given at rule 8.15(a).

**Conversion** means the transfer from an incorporated association under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (NSW) to a company limited by guarantee under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

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

**Initial Directors** has the meaning given at rule 8.2(c).

**Member Disciplinary Resolution** has the meaning given at rule 5.4(b).

**Member Elected Directors** has the meaning given at rule 8.2(a).

**Membership Renewal Notice** has the meaning given at rule 4.6(g).

**Purpose** has the meaning given at rule 3.1.

**Show of Preference** has the meaning given at rule 6.7(c).

**Surplus Assets** has the meaning given at rule 10.1.

**Vice-Chairperson** has the meaning given at rule 8.15(a).

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### 2 Interpretation

#### 2.1 General

- (a) In this constitution the words 'constitution', 'director', 'secretary', 'member' and the like are, and should be interpreted to be, references to the constitution, director, secretary, member and the like (as the case may be) of the company named in rule 2(a) unless the context otherwise requires.
- (b) A reference in a rule in general terms to a person holding or occupying a particular office or position includes a reference to any person who occupies or performs the duties of that office or position for the time being.

- (c) In this constitution, headings are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this constitution.
- (d) Unless the contrary intention appears, in this constitution:
  - (i) words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
  - (ii) words importing a gender include every other gender;
  - (iii) words used to denote persons generally include any individual, company, corporation, body corporate, body politic, partnership, joint venture, association, board, group or other body (whether or not the body is incorporated);
  - (iv) a reference to any statute, regulation, proclamation, ordinance or by-laws includes all statutes, regulations, proclamations, ordinances or by-laws varying, consolidating or replacing them and a reference to a statute includes all regulations, proclamations, ordinances and by-laws issued under that statute;
  - (v) the words 'including', 'such as', 'for example' and the like are not, and should not be interpreted to be, words of limitation, unless explicitly stated otherwise; and
  - (vi) where a word or phrase is given a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or phrase have corresponding meanings.
- (e) A requirement in this constitution for something to be carried out in writing will be satisfied if the matter in question is carried out in some other lawful manner that is approved by the directors.
- (f) In this constitution, where communication from a member to the company must be 'signed' by a member, in addition to any other methods permitted by law, the member may sign in any manner that allows the directors to be satisfied, acting reasonably, that the communication is from the relevant member, including by using an electronic signature.
- (g) 'Writing' or 'written' includes modes of representing or reproducing words, figures, drawings or symbols in a visible or tactile form which renders the message retrievable by people who know the language in question.

## **2.2 Replaceable rules not to apply**

The replaceable rules contained in the Corporations Act from time to time do not apply to the company.