



Proposed Changes to the Age Concern Wellington Constitution

Background

At a Board meeting in November 2019, the Board agreed to update the 2007 Constitution. The Executive Committee formed a team to review the Constitution, which began working in January 2020. Having completed the review of the current Constitution and made comparisons to similar documents, it was clear that the structure, language and grammar required revision.

The outcome of the revised Constitution is to create a governing document that is effective in enabling Age Concern Wellington to grow and flourish, and to ensure that procedures and policies are within the realm of best practice. Please note that these changes do not alter the charitable nature of Age Concern Wellington.

This document is a summary of the key changes proposed. It should not be read as a comprehensive representation of every change made in the proposed version of the Constitution. Members are encouraged to read through the current Constitution (2007) and the proposed new version (2020) for a more thorough comparison.

Key changes *(section numbers refer to the proposed new Constitution)*

2.0 Interpretations: This section now includes more interpretations of roles, including:

- **Chief Executive Officer:** This ensures a clear differentiation between the responsibilities of each of the Board, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer.
- The title of President has changed to **Chairperson** (see section 7.2)
- The role of Vice-Chairperson has been added
- The title of Executive Committee has changed to **Board** and Executive Committee Member has changed to **Board Member**.

3.0 Name: The official name of the organisation will be changed to **Age Concern Wellington Region Incorporated (ACWR)**

5.0 Powers: To eliminate redundant clauses, combine similar clauses, and increase focus and alignment with the Objective, twenty-three (23) existing powers have been reduced to ten (10)

6.0 Members: The 2007 document classified five (5) categories. For simplicity, this has been reduced to three categories: Associate Members, Agency Members and Honorary Membership: Other changes include:

- All elected Board Members will automatically become Honorary Members
- Honorary Members do not need to pay their Membership fees
- The Patron will now have full voting and speaking rights.

7.0 Governance:

7.1 Board: To give added focus and practicality, the required number of elected Board Members has been reduced from not less than 7 to 5. The ability to co-opt additional members remains a Board option.

7.2 Role of Chairperson: Increased responsibility has been added to the traditional role of Chairperson. This will now include overseeing and ensuring governance and Board responsibilities are achieved. In parallel, the Chairperson will be the main point of contact between the Board and the Chief Executive Officer.

7.4. Nominations to Membership of the Board: Suitability of Board Member candidates (i.e. ability to demonstrate a diversity of experience) has been added to the nomination process.

7.6 Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson: The Board will elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson at the first Board meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

8.0 Role of the Board: Seven core responsibilities have been added to the Constitution. This is designed to ensure that, in partnership with the CEO, the Board always works within the scope of best practice and sound governance.

9.0 Conflict of Interest: This clause is designed to ensure that any conflicts of interest are declared and entered into a register. Where appropriate, individuals so affected, would not be allowed to participate in any subsequent discussion.