

RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS TO HAVE MEANING IN ACT

- a. A word or expression that is not defined in these model rules, but is defined in the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 has, if the context permits, the meaning given by the Act.

2. NAME

- a. The name of the incorporated association is Friedreich Ataxia Network (“**the association**”)

3. OBJECTS

- a. The objects of the association are-
 - i. To foster a positive outlook and assist those with the disorder Friedreich Ataxia achieve their potential;
 - ii. To compile relevant information regarding—
 - A. symptoms of the disorder and treatment of these; and
 - B. up to date research into the disorder; and
 - C. support services available in the community; and
 - D. medical and health professionals with a special interest in the disorder.
 - iii. To make such information readily available by way of brochures, newsletters, webpage, seminars etc.; not only to persons with the disorder, but also to professionals and other persons who may be able to assist in achieving those goals;
 - iv. To supply information on, and to assist members in, accessing suitable recreational activities;
 - v. To promote and support research in any area relating to Friedreich Ataxia;
 - vi. To compile a database of members to assist in research;
 - vii. To assist in clinical trials when appropriate;
 - viii. To assist in educating medical and health professionals through participation in seminars etc;
 - ix. To liaise with government and private agencies to procure the best quality of assistance for persons with the Friedreich Ataxia disorder and their families;
 - x. To raise public awareness of the disorder;
 - xi. To raise funds for any or all of these objectives;

- xii. To promote the wellbeing of Friedreich Ataxia persons and their families in Queensland.

4. POWERS

- a. The association has the powers of an individual.
- b. The association may, for example—
 - i. enter into contracts; and
 - ii. acquire, hold, deal with and dispose of property; and
 - iii. make charges for services and facilities it supplies; and
 - iv. do other things necessary or convenient to be done in carrying out its affairs.

5. CLASSES OF MEMBERS

- a. The membership of the association consists of ordinary members only.
- b. The number of ordinary members is unlimited.

6. MEMBERSHIP

- a. An application for membership must be –
 - i. in writing; and
 - ii. signed by the applicant; and
 - iii. in the form decided by the management committee.

7. MEMBERSHIP FEES

- a. The membership fee for each class of membership –
 - i. is the amount decided by the members from time to time at a general meeting; and
 - ii. is payable when, and in the way, the management committee decides.

8. ADMISSION AND REJECTION OF MEMBERS

- a. The management committee must consider an application for membership at the next meeting of the committee held after it receives –
 - i. the application; and
 - ii. the appropriate membership fee for the application
- b. The management committee must decide at the meeting whether to accept or reject the application.

- c. If a majority of the management committee members present at the meeting vote to accept the applicant as a member, the applicant must be accepted as a member to the class of membership applied for.
- d. The secretary of the association must, as soon as practicable after the management committee decides to accept or reject an application, give the applicant a written notice of the decision.

9. WHEN MEMBERSHIP ENDS

- a. A member may resign from the association by giving a written notice of resignation to the secretary.
- b. The resignation takes effect on—
 - i. the day and at the time the notice is received by the secretary; or
 - ii. if a later day is stated in the notice – the later day.
- c. The management committee may terminate a member's membership if the member—
 - i. is convicted of an indictable offence; or
 - ii. does not comply with any of the provisions of these rules; or
 - iii. has membership fees in arrears for at least 2 months; or
 - iv. conducts himself or herself in a way considered to be injurious or prejudicial to the character or interests of the association.
- d. Before the management committee terminates a member's membership, the committee must give the member a full and fair opportunity to show why the membership should not be terminated.
- e. If, after considering all representations made by the member, the management committee decides to terminate the membership, the secretary of the committee must give the member a written notice of the decision.

10. APPEAL AGAINST REJECTION OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. A person whose application for membership has been rejected, or whose membership has been terminated, may give the secretary written notice of the person's intention to appeal against the decision.
- b. A notice of intention to appeal must be given to the secretary within 1 month after the person receives written notice of the decision.
- c. If the secretary receives a notice of intention to appeal, the secretary must, within 3 months after receiving the notice, call a general meeting to decide the appeal.
- d. At the meeting, the applicant must be given a full and fair opportunity to show why the application should not be rejected or the membership should not be terminated.

- e. Also, the management committee and the committee members who rejected the application or terminated the membership must be given a full and fair opportunity to show why the application should be rejected or the membership should be terminated.
- f. An appeal must be decided by a vote of the members present at the meeting.
- g. If a person whose application for membership has been rejected does not appeal against the decision within 1 month after receiving written notice of the decision, or the person appeals but the appeal is unsuccessful, the secretary must, as soon as practicable, refund the membership fee paid by the person.
- h. Following the appeals process the management committee decision is final.

11. REGISTER OF MEMBERS

- a. The management committee must keep a register of members.
- b. The register must include the following particulars for each member—
 - i. the full name and residential address of the member;
 - ii. the date of admission as a member;
 - iii. the date of death or resignation of the member if known;
 - iv. any other particulars the management committee or the members at a general meeting decide.
- c. The register must be available for inspection by members of the association at all reasonable times.
- d. A member must contact the secretary to arrange an inspection of the register.
- e. However, the management committee may, on the application of a member of the association, withhold information about a member (other than the members full name) from the register available for inspection if the management committee has reasonable grounds for believing the disclosure of the information would put the member at risk of harm.

12. SECRETARY

- a. If a vacancy happens in the office of secretary, the members of the management committee must ensure a secretary is appointed or elected for the association within 1 month after the vacancy happens.
- b. The secretary must be an individual residing in Queensland, or in another State but not more than 65km from the Queensland border, who is—
 - i. a member of the association elected by the association as secretary; or
 - ii. any of the following persons appointed by the management committee—
 - A. a member of the association's management committee;

- B. another member of the association;
- C. another person.
- c. The management committee may appoint or remove the association's secretary at any time.

13. FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARY

- a. The secretary's functions include, but are not limited to—
 - i. calling meetings of the association, including preparing notices of a meeting and of the business to be conducted at the meeting in consultation with the president of the association; and
 - ii. keeping minutes of each meeting; and
 - iii. keeping copies of all correspondence and other documents relating to the association; and
 - iv. maintaining the register of members of the association.

14. MEMBERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. The management committee of the association consists of a president, treasurer, and any other members the association members elect or appoint at a general meeting.
- b. A member of the management committee must be a member of the association.
- c. At each annual general meeting of the association, the members of the management committee must retire from office, but are eligible, on nomination, for re-election.

15. ELECTING THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. A member of the management committee may only be elected as follows—
 - i. any 2 members of the association may nominate another member (the **“candidate”**) to serve as a member of the management committee;
 - ii. the nomination must be—
 - A. in writing; and
 - B. signed by the candidate and the members who nominated him or her; and
 - C. given to the secretary at least 14 days before the annual general meeting at which the election is to be held;
 - iii. each member of the association present at the annual general meeting may vote for 1 candidate for each vacant position on the management committee;
 - iv. if, at the start of the meeting, there are not enough candidates nominated, nominations may be taken from the floor of the meeting.

- b. A list of the candidates' names in alphabetical order, with the names of the members who nominated each candidate, must be posted in a conspicuous place in the office or usual place of meeting of the association for at least 7 days immediately preceding the annual general meeting.
- c. If required by the management committee, balloting lists must be prepared containing the names of the candidates in alphabetical order.

16. RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER

- a. A member of the management committee may resign from the committee by giving written notice of resignation to the secretary.
- b. The resignation takes effect on—
 - i. the day and at the time the notice is received by the secretary; or
 - ii. if a later day is stated in the notice—the later day.
- c. A member may be removed from office at a general meeting of the association if a majority of the members present at the meeting vote in favour of removing the member.
- d. Before a vote of members is taken about removing the member from office, the member must be given a full and fair opportunity to show cause why he or she should not be removed from office.
- e. A member has no right of appeal against the member's removal from office under this rule.

17. VACANCIES ON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. If a casual vacancy happens on the management committee, the continuing members of the committee may appoint another member of the association to fill the vacancy until the next annual general meeting.
- b. The continuing members of the management committee may act despite a casual vacancy on the management committee.
- c. However, if the number of committee members is less than the number fixed under these rules as a quorum of the management committee, the continuing members may act only to—
 - i. increase the number of management committee members to the number required for a quorum; or
 - ii. call a general meeting of the association.

18. FUNCTIONS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. Subject to these rules or a resolution of the members of the association carried at a general meeting, the management committee—
 - i. has the general control of the administration of the affairs, property and funds of the association; and
 - ii. has authority to interpret the meaning of these rules and any matter relating to the association on which the rules are silent.
- b. The management committee may exercise the powers of the association—
 - i. to borrow, raise or secure the payment of amounts in a way the members of the association decide; and
 - ii. to invest in a way the members of the association may from time to time decide.

19. MEETINGS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. Subject to subsections (b) to (r), the management committee may meet and conduct its proceedings as it considers appropriate.
- b. The management committee must meet at least once every 4 months to exercise its functions.
- c. The management committee must decide how a meeting is to be called.
- d. Notice of a meeting is to be given in the way decided by the management committee.
- e. The management committee may hold meetings, or permit a committee member to take part in its meetings, by using any technology that reasonably allows the member to hear and take part in discussions as they happen.
- f. A committee member who participates in the meeting as mentioned in subsection (e) is taken to be present at the meeting.
- g. At a management committee meeting, more than 50% of the members elected to the committee as at the close of the last general meeting of the members form a quorum.
- h. A question arising at a committee meeting is to be decided by a majority vote of members of the committee present at the meeting and, if the votes are equal, the question is decided in the negative.
- i. A member of the management committee must not vote on a question about a contract or proposed contract with the association if the member has an interest in the contract or proposed contract and, if the member does vote, the member's vote must not be counted.
- j. If the secretary receives a written request signed by at least 33% of the members of the management committee, the secretary must call a special meeting of the committee by

- giving each member of the committee notice of the meeting within 14 days after the secretary receives the request.
- k. If the secretary is unable or unwilling to call the special meeting, the president must call the meeting.
 - l. A request for a special meeting must state—
 - i. why the special meeting is called; and
 - ii. the business to be conducted at the meeting.
 - m. A notice of a special meeting must state—
 - i. the day, time and place of the meeting; and
 - ii. the business to be conducted at the meeting.
 - n. The president or, if there is no president or if the president is not present within 10 minutes after the time fixed for a management committee meeting, the members may choose 1 of their number to preside as chairperson at the meeting.
 - o. If the president and the vice-president are absent from a management committee meeting, the members may choose 1 of their number to preside as chairperson at the meeting.
 - p. If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a management committee meeting called on the request of members of the committee, the meeting lapses.
 - q. If there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a management committee meeting called other than on the request of the members of the committee, the meeting is to be adjourned to—
 - i. The same day, time and place in the next week; or
 - ii. A day, time and place decided by the committee.
 - r. If, at an adjourned meeting mentioned in subsection (q), there is no quorum within 30 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting, the meeting lapses.

20. DELEGATION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POWERS

- a. The management committee may delegate the whole or part of its powers to a subcommittee consisting of members of the association considered appropriate by the committee.
- b. A subcommittee may only exercise delegated powers in the way the management committee decides.
- c. A subcommittee may elect a chairperson of its meetings.

- d. If a chairperson is not elected, or if the chairperson is not present within 10 minutes after the time fixed for a meeting, the members present may choose 1 of their number to be chairperson of the meeting.
- e. A subcommittee may meet and adjourn as it considers appropriate.
- f. A question arising at a subcommittee meeting is to be decided by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting and, if the votes are equal, the question is decided in the negative.

21. ACTS NOT AFFECTED BY DEFECTS OR DISQUALIFICATIONS

- a. An act performed by the management committee, a subcommittee or a person acting as a member of the management committee is taken to have been validly performed.
- b. Subsection (a) applies even if the act was performed when—
 - i. there was a defect in the appointment of a member of the management committee, subcommittee or person acting as a member of the management committee; or
 - ii. a management committee member, subcommittee member or person acting as a member of the management committee was disqualified from being a member.

22. RESOLUTIONS OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WITHOUT MEETING

- a. A written resolution signed by each member of the management committee for the time being entitled to receive notice of a committee meeting is as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a committee meeting that was properly called and held.
- b. A resolution mentioned in subsection (a) may consist of several documents in like form, each signed by 1 or more members of the committee.

23. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- a. An annual general meeting must be held—
 - i. at least once each year; and
 - ii. within 6 months after the end date of the association's previous financial year.

24. BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a. The following business must be conducted at each annual general meeting—
 - i. receiving the statement of income and expenditure, assets, liabilities and mortgages, charges and securities affecting the property of the association for the last financial year⁹;

- ii. receiving the auditor's report on the financial affairs of the association for the last financial year;
- iii. presenting the audited statement to the meeting for adoption;
- iv. electing members of the management committee;
- v. appointing an auditor or an accountant for the present financial year.

25. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

- a. The secretary may only call a special general meeting by giving each member notice of the meeting within 14 days after—
 - i. being directed to call the meeting by the management committee; or
 - ii. being given a written request signed by—
 - A. at least 33% of the number of members of the association presently on the management committee; or
 - B. at least the number of ordinary members of the association equal to double the number of members of the association presently on the management committee plus 1; or
 - iii. being given a written notice of an intention to appeal against the decision of the management committee—
 - A. to reject an application for membership; or
 - B. to terminate a person's membership.
- b. A request mentioned in subsection (a)(ii) must state—
 - i. why the special general meeting is being called; and
 - ii. the business to be conducted at the meeting.

26. NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

- a. The secretary may call a general meeting of the association.
- b. The secretary must give at least 14 days notice of the meeting to each member of the association.
- c. The management committee may decide the way in which the notice must be given.
- d. However, notice of the following meetings must be given in writing—
 - i. a meeting called to hear and decide the appeal of a person against the rejection or termination of the member's membership by the management committee; or
 - ii. a meeting called to hear and decide a proposed special resolution of the association.
- e. A notice of a general meeting must state the business to be conducted at the meeting.

27. QUORUM FOR, AND ADJOURNMENT OF, GENERAL MEETING

- a. Subject to subsection (e), at a general meeting the number of members equal to double the number of members presently on the management committee plus 1 form a quorum.
- b. No business may be conducted at a general meeting unless there is a quorum of members when the meeting proceeds to business.
- c. If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a general meeting called on the request of members of the management committee or the association, the meeting lapses.
- d. If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time fixed for a general meeting called other than on the request of members of the management committee of the association, the meeting is to be adjourned to—
 - i. the same day, time and place in the next week; or
 - ii. a day, time and place decided by the management committee.
- e. If at an adjourned meeting, a quorum under subsection (a) is not present within 30 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting, the members present form a quorum.
- f. The chairperson may, with the consent of any meeting at which there is a quorum, and must if directed by the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place.
- g. If a meeting is adjourned under subsection (f), only the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place may be conducted at the adjourned meeting.
- h. The secretary is not required to give the members notice of an adjournment or of the business to be conducted at an adjourned meeting unless a meeting is adjourned for at least 30 days.
- i. If a meeting is adjourned for at least 30 days, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given in the same way notice is given for an original meeting.

28. PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETING

- a. Subject to these rules, at each general meeting—
 - i. the president or, if there is no president or if the president is not present within 15 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting or is unwilling to act, the vice-president is to preside as chairperson; and
 - ii. if the vice-president is absent or unwilling to act as chairperson, the members present must elect 1 of their number to be chairperson of the meeting; and
 - iii. the chairperson must conduct the meeting in a proper and orderly way; and

- iv. each question, matter or resolution must be decided by a majority of votes of the members present; and
 - v. each member present and eligible to vote is entitled to 1 vote only and, if the votes are equal, the chairperson has a casting vote as well as a primary vote; and
 - vi. a member is not entitled to vote at a general meeting if the member's annual subscription is in arrears at the date of the meeting; and
 - vii. voting may be by a show of hands or a division or members, unless at least 20% of the members present demand a secret ballot; and
 - viii. if a secret ballot is held, the chairperson must appoint 2 members to conduct the secret ballot in the way the chairperson decides; and
 - ix. the result of a secret ballot as declared by the chairperson is taken to be a resolution of the meeting at which the ballot was held; and
 - x. the secretary must ensure full and accurate minutes of all questions, matters, resolutions and other proceedings of each general meeting are entered in a minute book; and
 - xi. the secretary must ensure the minute book for each general meeting is open for inspection at all reasonable times by any financial member who previously applies to the secretary for the inspection.
- b. To ensure the accuracy of the minutes recorded under subsection (a)(x)—
- i. the minutes of each management committee meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next management committee meeting, verifying their accuracy; and
 - ii. the minutes of each general meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next general meeting, verifying their accuracy; and
 - iii. the minutes of each annual general meeting must be signed by the chairperson of the meeting, or the chairperson of the next meeting of the association that is a general meeting or annual general meeting, verifying their accuracy.

29. BY-LAWS

- a. The management committee may make, amend or repeal by-laws, not inconsistent with these rules, for the internal management of the association.
- b. A by-law may be set aside by a vote of members at a general meeting of the association.

30. ALTERATION OF RULES

- a. Subject to the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*, these rules may be amended, repealed or added to by a special resolution carried at a general meeting.
- b. However an amendment, repeal or addition is valid only if it is registered by the chief executive.

31. COMMON SEAL

- a. The management committee must ensure the association has a common seal.
- b. The common seal must be—
 - i. kept securely by the management committee; and
 - ii. used only under the authority of the management committee.
- c. Each instrument to which the seal is attached must be signed by a member of the management committee and countersigned by—
 - i. the secretary; or
 - ii. another member of the management committee; or
 - iii. someone authorised by the management committee.

32. FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS

- a. The funds of the association must be kept in an account in the name of the association in a financial institution decided by the management committee.
- b. Records and accounts must be kept in the English language showing full and accurate particulars of the financial affairs of the association.
- c. All amounts must be deposited in the financial institution account as soon as practicable after receipt.
- d. If an amount of \$100 or more is paid by cheque, the cheque must be signed by any 2 of the following—
 - i. the president;
 - ii. the secretary;
 - iii. the treasurer;
 - iv. another member authorised by the management committee for the purpose.
- e. Cheques, other than cheques for wages, allowances or petty cash recoupment, must be crossed 'not negotiable'.
- f. A petty cash account must be kept on the imprest system, and the management committee must decide the amount of petty cash to be kept in the account.
- g. All expenditure must be approved or ratified at a management committee meeting.
- h. The treasurer must, as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, ensure a statement containing the following particulars is prepared—

- i. the income and expenditure for the financial year just ended;
 - ii. the association's assets and liabilities at the close of the year;
- i. The auditor must examine the statement prepared under subsection (8) and present a report about it to the secretary before the next annual general meeting following the financial year for which the audit was made.
- j. The income and property of the association must be used solely in promoting the association's objects and exercising the association's powers.

33. DOCUMENTS

- a. The management committee must ensure the safe custody of books, documents, instruments of title and securities of the association.

34. FINANCIAL YEAR

- a. The financial year of the association closes on 30th June in each year.

35. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS ASSETS TO ANOTHER ENTITY

- a. This rule applies if the association—
 - i. is wound-up under part 10 of the Act; and
 - ii. has surplus assets.
- b. The surplus assets must not be distributed among the association members.
- c. The surplus assets must be given to another entity—
 - i. having objects similar to the association's objects; and
 - ii. the rules of which prohibit the distribution of the entity's income and assets to its members.
- d. In this section— *surplus assets* see section 92(3) of the Act.

⁹ This statement is required to be prepared under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, section 59 (Audit and statement).