

The COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION of  
the DEAF and DUMB.

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CONSTITUTION.

1. The name of the Association shall be the Commonwealth Association of the Deaf and Dumb.

OBJECTS.

2. To unite the deaf and dumb of the Commonwealth of Australia in efforts for their general welfare.
3. To ascertain recommend and/or provide ways and means for the advancement of the deaf and dumb of Australia socially industrially and otherwise and do all or any things necessary for the elevation of their status generally.
4. To gather and preserve all facts statistics and opinions relating to the deaf and to promote by every legitimate means the diffusion of the same by means of public meetings the press or other publications as shall be thought advisable by the Council.
5. To arrange for periodical meetings in each State between the Councillors of this Federation and the Delegates of the National Council of Deaf and Dumb Societies in Australia to discuss and consider Deaf and Dumb Commonwealth problems.
6. In all respects to assist co-operate with and act in conjunction with all or any of the Deaf and Dumb Societies of the several States of the Commonwealth of Australia and also with the National Council of Adult Deaf and Dumb Societies of Australia for all or any of the objects of herein set out.

7. To organise congresses bi-annually in different parts of Australia for the discussion of matters relating to the deaf and dumb and to further any of the objects herein set out and to make recommendations to the Council herein specified.

CONSTITUTION.

8. The membership of the Association shall be unlimited in number and shall consist of deaf and dumb people domiciled in the Commonwealth of Australia who are ex-pupils of any school for the deaf and dumb. Provided however that the Council hereinafter specified may at any of its meetings invite any hearing and speaking person or person who has or have been of outstanding assistance and/or rendered signal service to the deaf and dumb community of Australia or any of the States thereof to become a member of the Association and on acceptance of such invitation such hearing and speaking person or persons shall become a member or members of the Association and shall be entitled to all the privileges thereof and shall also be eligible for election to any Board or Council.

9. The members of the Association shall be elected by the State Boards hereinafter mentioned.

10. The membership fee shall be 1/- per year and such fee shall become due and payable immediately upon election.

11. The members of the Association resident in each of the States of the Commonwealth of Australia shall form themselves into a Branch of the Association and elect 12 of their number to form a Board to control the affairs of the Association in each such State respectively (one Board only in each of the

States).

12. The members of the Board in each State shall meet at least once in each 3 months. Five to form a quorum. All Board meetings shall be convened by the Secretary of the Board who shall give not less than 14 days previous notice in writing by prepaid letter addressed to each member of his Board stating the time and place of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted.

13. The members of the Board when elected shall remain in office for a term of 2 years.

14. The members of each branch of the Association shall meet at least once each year and the meetings shall be convened by the Chairman of the Board of each such branch by notices in 2 daily papers published in the capital of the State which each such branch represents. Such notices shall be so published twice not less than 14 days and not more than 30 days before the date of the meeting and shall set out shortly the business of such meeting.

14a. Special Meetings. On receipt of a request in writing requesting him so to do stating the nature of the business and signed by 35 members of the Association the Secretary of a Branch shall call a special meeting of the members of the branch in manner set out in the last preceding paragraph hereof.

14b. The first Boards shall consist of the following persons elected at a Congress held in Sydney during Christmas vacation 1933.

New South Wales: G. R. B. Library; Chairman, W. Malley,

Victoria. J.M. Johnston, Chairman, A. Stephens, F.E. Frewin, and Miss R. Dow.

South Australia: G.S. Dunnett, W. Abbott, Mrs. C.J. Metcalf.

Queensland: O. Flay, H.T. Beutell, Mrs. Spranklin.

Tasmania: W. Limbrick, G. Webb.

West. Australia: C.H. Plunkett, J. G. Bircher.

14c. Immediately a Board is elected it shall elect from its number a Chairman an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer.

15. The Chairman of the several Boards respectively shall preside at all meetings of the Boards and also at all meetings of the members of the respective branches and in the event of the absence of the Chairman some member of the Board elected by the members present shall preside.

16. The Boards shall elect the Council in manner herein mentioned.

17. Should any member or members of a Board die retire or otherwise cease to be or act as a member of the Board during the currency of the term for which he or she or they were elected the remaining members of such Board may elect a member or members of the Association to be a member or members of the Board in place of the retiring member or members for the remainder of the then current term.

18. Duties of Honorary Secretaries. The Honorary Secretaries of the several Branches shall convene meetings and record minutes of the business of the Boards and Branches. They shall keep a list of members of the Association giving the full name address and occupation of each. They shall have charge of all documents etc. belonging to the Branches and Boards and hand all monies received

to the Honorary Treasurers.

Duties of Honorary Treasurers. The Honorary Treasurers of the several Branches shall receive all monies belonging to their respective Branches keep accounts of all receipts and expenditure. They shall also preserve all vouchers. They shall open accounts in the names of their Branches with the local Government Savings Bank.

19. Council. The Council shall consist of 18 members elected as follows:-

Four to be elected by the Board of the State Victorian Branch.

Four to be elected by the Board of the State New South Wales Branch

Three " " " " " " " " " Queensland Branch,

" " " " " " " " " South Australian Branch

Two " " " " " " " " " West Australian Branch

" " " " " " " " " Tasmania Branch.

20. The Council when elected shall remain in office for a period of 2 consecutive years. Any retiring member shall be eligible for re-election.

21. Should any member of the Council die retire or otherwise cease to be a member of the Council during the currency of the term for which he or she was elected a member belonged of the Council the Board of the Branch of which such member belonged may elect another Councillor in his or her stead for the remainder of the then current term.

22. The Council when elected shall immediately proceed to elect from amongst its member a Chairman and Honorary Secretary and an

Honorary Treasurer.

Mode of Election of Council.

23. The Honorary Secretary of the Board in each of the States of the Commonwealth of Australia shall convene a meeting of the members of each such Board respectively by notices in at least 2 daily papers published in the capital of the States which he or she represents. Such notices shall be so published twice not less than 14 days nor more than 30 days before the date of the meeting and shall set out shortly the business of the meeting.

24. No person shall be elected a member of the Council unless he or she is personally present at such meeting and signified his or her willingness to be so elected or alternatively notifies the convener of the meeting in writing prior to ~~the hour of~~ each hour of such meeting of his or her willingness to be so elected.

Conduct of Meetings of the Council and Duties of Executive Officers.

25. The Chairman of the Council shall preside where practicable at all meetings of the Council.

26. Councillors shall give their full name address and state their occupation to the Secretary and keep him informed of any change of residence. They shall endeavour to attend every meeting whenever possible and to advance the interests of the deaf and dumb of Australia especially by enlisting the aid of the public in furthering its aims and in securing additional members.

27. The members of the Council shall be liaison officers between this Council and the Deaf and Dumb Societies in the various States of the Commonwealth.

Meeting of Council.

28. The members of the Council shall meet at least once in every 2 consecutive years in the capital of the State in which the bi-annual congress is held from time to time. Such meetings to be held during the week of each such congress - 9 to form a quorum.

29. The Honorary Secretary of the Council shall convene meetings of the Council by giving at least 1 calendar month's notice in writing to each member of the Council and such notices to be given by prepaid letter addressed to each member of the Council at the address last registered under clause 26 hereof.

30. At each of the Council meetings the Councillors shall name the time and the place of its next meeting. Providing however that on receipt of a request in writing requesting him so to do signed by not less than 12 members of the Council and stating the nature of the business to be transacted and the place of meeting the Honorary Secretary of the Council shall call a meeting of the Council in the manner set out in clause 29 hereof.

31. Each member of the Council shall have 1 vote at all meetings of the Council and in cases of equality in number the Chairman shall have a casting vote. The proceedings of meetings of the Council shall be governed by ordinary parliamentary practices and in cases of dispute the ruling of the chairman of the meeting shall be final.

32. The Council shall bi-annually appoint an auditor who shall audit the books of the Council and report to the Council thereon.

Alteration of Constitution. No alteration of or addition to the Association shall be made except at a meeting of the Council and then only by a two-thirds majority of the members present. Such

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intended alteration or addition shall be submitted to the Councillors in writing at least three calendar months prior to the date of the meeting of the Council at which such alteration or addition is proposed to be submitted.