



Constitution of the Australasian Catholic Press Association

(as amended 3rd September 2010)

1. Aims

The aims of the Australasian Catholic Press Association are:

- a) To do all things which will promote the greater glory of God and the building up of the Body of Christ in so far as they concern the Catholic press as a whole, and especially the member publications.
- b) To promote the principles and practices set out in the Second Vatican Council's decree on the mass media and in subsequent social instructions on the mass media.
- c) To promote harmony and co-operation among members, and with other Catholic and ecumenical associations, for the advancement of the religious press and the religious media.
- d) To promote international co-operation by working closely with other Catholic and ecumenical bodies recognised by the Holy See.

2. Membership

- a) Full membership of the Association is open to all Catholic newspapers, magazines, newsletters and online journals produced in Australasia.
- b) Each publication which enjoys full membership in the Association shall be entitled to be represented by one representative appointed by its own managing body at, and shall have one vote in, the Annual Convention and special meetings of the Association.
- c) Associate membership in the Association is open to all persons working in Catholic print and publishing media, press and information officers working for Catholic organisations and Catholics working in professional, non-Catholic print and publishing media. Associate members are not entitled to vote in the Annual Convention or special meetings of the Association unless they are on the ACPA Executive.
- d) Life membership may, by a majority vote of the Executive, be bestowed from time to time upon individuals in recognition of their services to the Association.
- e) Membership is conditional upon payment of such membership fees as are determined from time to time by the Association. Membership fees are not applicable to life members of the Association.

- f) Applications for both full and associate membership of the association are made to the Executive and should be supported by an existing member of the Association. Keeping in mind what is set out in paragraph 2a) and 2c) above, the Executive shall determine the eligibility of the applicant and the type of membership granted in the Association.
- g) The Executive may deprive any member publication or associate member of membership in the Association would such member or associate member cease to meet the criteria set out in 2a) and 2c) above, or in the case where such publication or associate member ceases to behave in a manner consistent with the aims of the Association or whose actions bring the Association into disrepute or harm its good name.

3. Finance

- a) The financial year of the Association shall be the Calendar Year - 1st January to 31st December. Membership fees shall be payable before the Annual Convention. When sending out the registration forms for the Annual Convention, the Treasurer shall also send to all members notice of their dues for the following year.
- b) Fees shall be determined by the majority vote of the members present at a Convention of the Association and shall remain in effect until changed by a majority at a Convention.
- c) Different fees may be set for different categories of full membership. Lower fees will be set for associated members.

4. Meetings

- a) There shall be a Convention of the Association at a time to be fixed by delegates assembled at the Convention. The place for such Conventions shall also be determined by members present at the previous Convention. If for any good reason there seems need to change the place and/or date of the Convention, this may be done by the Executive.
- b) Special meetings of the Association may be called by the Executive. The President shall call such a meeting whenever requested in writing by at least one-third of the full membership.
- c) Notice of special meetings of the Association shall be sent to all members at least three weeks before the date of such meetings.
- d) A quorum for the transaction of business at such meetings of the Association shall be constituted by one-third of the full membership.
- e) Voting shall be in the manner determined by the chairperson presiding at each meeting. Each member publication shall have one vote. Associate and Lifetime members are not entitled to vote in the Annual Convention or special meetings of the Association unless they are Full Members or on the ACPA Executive. All voting may be by proxy.
- f) Time may be set aside at each Annual Convention of the Association for meetings of special interest groups (eg newspapers, magazines, Catholics in non-Catholic print media).

5. Executive

- a) At the Annual Convention, the Association will elect a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, to hold office until the following Convention. The majority of members of the Executive will be full members of the Association.
- b) The Executive shall be the governing body of the Association between Conventions. It shall have charge of the business affairs, funds and property of the Association and shall have all the powers of the Association except the power of making or changing the Constitution.
- c) The Executive shall meet at least once a year and at such other times as may be determined by the President.
- d) A special meeting shall be called if requested in writing by at least half of the members of the Executive. The place of such meeting shall be determined by the President.
- e) The quorum of meetings of the Executive shall be three.
- f) As far as possible, Executive meetings shall be held at the same time as the Association's Annual Convention.
- g) Vacancies on the Executive shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive.

6. Bank

- a) The bank of the Association shall be chosen by the Executive and all funds belonging to the Association shall be held in such account.
- b) Cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer.
- c) The Treasurer shall provide a full, written financial statement at each Convention.

7. Amendments

The Constitution may be amended at any Convention of the Association by a majority vote of the member publications present. Notice of any proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Association at least 30 days before the Annual Convention and a copy of the proposed amendment shall be dispatched to all members no later than 14 days before the meeting.