



AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

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1. PURPOSE OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION AND RULES

It is intended that the "Federal Constitution and Rules" and everything related to or implied within it, or any agreement or transaction entered into on the basis of the "Federal Constitution and Rules" shall not give rise to any legal relationship or any consequence which will be legally enforceable or be the subject of litigation.

All arrangements, agreements and transactions are binding on the basis of trust only (James 5: 12).

2. NAME

"AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS" is the name registered with both the Federal and State Electoral Commissioners as required by law.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 To ensure Christian values remain at the heart of Australian culture by representing the Christian World view in the parliaments of this nation.

3.2 To advance the glory of God through the institution of Parliament and through all aspects of Federal and State and Local Government, to advance Australia as "A Christian Commonwealth" as it was originally described in 1901 when the Commonwealth of Australia was formed,

3.3 To promote the true welfare of the people of Australia through all legislation being brought into conformity with the revealed will of God in the Holy Bible with a special emphasis on the MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION (2 Cor.5:18),

3.4 To support & promote recognition of our Christian Heritage by uplifting the Judeo/Christian ethic with pro-family, pro-child, pro-moral, pro-life, and pro-Australian policies,

3.5 To endorse, nominate and support the election of Christian Candidates into Local, State and Federal Government; especially in the Upper Houses of Parliament and in the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory and the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory,

3.6 To uphold our Christian Constitutional Monarchy and Westminster System of Government through the policies of AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS as a Christian Political Movement respecting the sovereignty of Australia.

In accordance with Jeremiah 5:27 we seek to "Set up a standard in the land", and fulfil our Lord's command in the Gospel of Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven", Isaiah 62.6: "ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence", Romans 13.3: "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil".

4. MEMBERSHIP:

4.1 Anyone of good character, who affirms the policies and doctrines of Australian Christians may apply for membership on such terms as are from time to time determined.

4.2. When Membership applications and fees are received, applicants will be supplied with the relevant documents indicating our policies (at that time) and statement of faith. Upon receiving a signed statement of agreement with the A.C. party, their application may be confirmed and notification be given.

5. STATE AND TERRITORY BRANCHES

5.1 Members may elect to belong to State (or territory) branches and Federal branches; however, membership of one will automatically entitle membership of the other.

5.2 Each year there will be an annual general meeting of the state branch at which members of the State Council are elected, according to the state constitution.

- 5.3 State Councillors are eligible for membership of the Federal Council Subject to clause 7.1
- 5.4 State branches will have their own constitution but the federal Constitution will override the state constitution.
- 5.5 State Councils will choose their own officers.

6. FEDERAL COUNCIL

- 6.1 The Federal Council will be the supreme policy and strategy-making authority for AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS. Authorisation of all Australian Christians federal resource allocations and fundraising is at the discretion of the Federal Council
- 6.2 The Federal Council will consist of no more than Twelve members from the state branches. If more than twelve are nominated, then the members of the council will be elected by ballot. Those elected will then determine who will be the officers of the Federal Council. Any member's position will be declared vacant if he/she becomes bankrupt, or for any other reason deemed sufficient by a 75% majority of the council.
- 6.3 Members of the Federal Council are elected for a four year term, but each retiring member is eligible for re-election. The Federal Council is composed of councillors of the respective state branches. Half the Federal Council will be re-elected at each convention.
- 6.3 The Federal Council is elected at the Annual General Meeting, which is always held no later than 13 months after the preceding AGM. All offices are declared vacant but all officers are eligible for re-election. The AGM may be held concurrently with the Convention, but otherwise at a date chosen by the council itself.
- 6.4 The Federal Council will meet in person once each year and where possible will also meet three times each year via videoconference, in February, May and August each year.. If at least seven councillors from at least three branches request the President to call a special meeting of council, he/she shall accede to that request if the request is signed by all seven persons. Such a meeting will be called, of the whole council within 30 days, either by video-conference, physical or a combination of both.
- 6.5 The Federal Council, at its discretion may appoint advisory bodies or seek expertise from with the party or from external organisations at any time.

7 FEDERAL EXECUTIVE:

The Federal executive consists of the Federal President, a ~~two~~ Vice President, Federal Secretary, Federal Treasurer and Federal Director.

- 7.1 **The President** presides over the Federal Council, and the Federal Convention. The President is also the official spokesman of the Australian Christians on Federal issues but may delegate this responsibility to another member or a nominated individual or company approved by the Federal Executive. The President will preside at all meetings of Australian Christians and be ex-officio empowered to preside at any other Federal meetings of Australian Christians. The
- 7.2 **The Vice President** will be called upon to act in lieu of the President if at any time he so wishes, or in the opinion of the majority of councillors, he or she is otherwise unable to serve.
- 7.3 **Federal Secretary** is responsible for ensuring that Minutes of all Federal Council meetings are recorded and distributed to all members of the Federal Council, and the secretaries of Australian Christians Party branches in all States and Territories.

The party secretary's responsibilities include:

- Signing applications for registration
- Signing applications for a change of party details
- Signing applications for deregistration
- Being the person to whom the AEC will write about matters concerning electoral enrolment and election arrangements generally.

7.4 **Federal Director** will manage all departmental officers on behalf of the Federal Council. The Director will meet with all administrative officers both singly and collectively when necessary, and if a general meeting with them is held, he will preside over such a meeting, and report to the Federal Council.

7.5 **Federal Treasurer** is responsible for the payment of all Federal accounts. He or she will also be responsible for the development of the budget for all future accounting periods. He or she is also responsible for:

7.5.1 Dissemination of funds to affiliated Australian Christians bodies subject to clause 8.5.3.

7.5.2 Determining the appropriate level of financial contribution from affiliated Australian Christians bodies

7.5.3 **Development of the policy in conjunction with other members of the Federal Executive** determining dissemination of all money to affiliated Australian Christians bodies.

7.5.4 **Bank signatories**; all cheques and other financial instruments must be signed or electronically approved by any two of the Federal Executive.

8. FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION

The Federal Council will employ departmental officers to work with the Federal Director to implement decisions of the Federal Executive. They will consist of, but not be limited to:

- Public Relations Officer,
- Prayer Convenor,
- Fundraising Director,
- Convention Director,
- Federal Elections Director
- Federal Policy Director

The Federal Council can form sub-committees to address specific concerns from time to time, reporting directly to the Federal Director.

Applicants for the Departmental officers are recommended to the federal executive by the Federal Director.

Applicants must be members of the Australian Christians party.

Departmental offices will be appointed as required for the appropriate time.

8.1 ROLE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

The Federal Public Relations Officer manages the development and maintenance of the public image of the Australian Christians party. His or her role is in the development of all 'standard' correspondence, both written and electronic, leaving the Federal Office.

He or she will also be the spokesperson for all Media contact opportunities and will initiate Media events as appropriate. He or she will manage the development and the maintenance of the Australian Christians website and that website's content, as well as the development, maintenance and content of all affiliated Australian Christians websites. His or her work will be supervised by the Federal Director in consultation with the Federal Executive.

8.2 ROLE OF THE FEDERAL FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR

The Federal Fundraising Director will manage all the fundraising activities of the Federal Australian Christians party.

He or she will also be responsible for approving the fund raising activities of all affiliated Australian Christian organisations.

The Federal Fundraising Director will work closely with all of the Federal Council, in particular the Federal Treasurer, to determine the amount and type of fundraising that should be done in any given accounting period.

8.3 ROLE OF THE FEDERAL CONVENTION ORGANISER

The Federal Convention Organiser will manage the budgeting, planning, advertising and organisation of the Federal Australian Christians Convention.

In this role he or she will work closely with the Federal Council and will liaise with all Australian Christian branches.

8.4 THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS DIRECTOR

The Federal Elections Director will run all Australian Christians Federal Election Campaigns and will work closely with State counterparts in the running of all State and Territory Election Campaigns. He or she will work closely with the Federal Council and is responsible to ensure unity and uniformity of all Election Campaigns and an integrated communications approach to all campaigns.

He or she will work closely with the Federal Council in the selection, grooming and training of all election candidates.

8.5 THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL POLICY DIRECTOR.

The Federal Policy Director will manage the development and maintenance of policies. Where necessary, he or she will recruit members and/or experts in their field to a Federal Standing Committee (ref Section 21) to assist in the drafting and refining of policies, always ensuring the wording of these complies with the positive spirit and image of the party.

He or she will assist state councils in the development of state policy, and, subject to the approval of the Federal Council, has the authority to amend such policies where they conflict with the federal policies. Refer to Section 21 for details of policy development.

9 COMPLAINTS AND PROCEDURES

9.1 Removal from Office or Membership.

Members of Australian Christians may, at the discretion of the Federal Council, be removed from any office held at any level, or from ordinary membership, if he or she brings the party into disrepute or behaves in a manner contrary to the spirit and goodwill of the party OR is convicted of offence under the laws of the state or commonwealth of Australia.

However no person may be removed from office or ordinary membership without due process being observed. If a complaint is made against a person, the plaintiff must be given the opportunity to be heard and may, if he / she so requests be supported by an advisor. Only when a complaint is sustained by a majority of council members, will the Council dismiss the person concerned

If as a result of a complaint brought against any member, a vacancy is created on the council, another member may be appointed by the Federal President, to serve until the time of the next Council election, such appointment to be approved by the State from which the original Federal Council member was appointed.

9.2 Acceptance or rejection of candidates.

The acceptance or rejection of all or any Australian Christians candidate in any election, be it at Federal, State or Local level and for any House of Parliament is at the discretion of the Federal Council. The Federal Council may make such decisions where a majority of the members of the Federal Council support a motion of acceptance or rejection of a person be tabled.

10 THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS CONVENTION

There will be an AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS Convention held at two year intervals, preferably in November.

The purpose of the Convention is primarily to inspire party members through encouraging addresses, fellowship, networking, brainstorming and planning, however members of the party present at national conventions will vote on any nominees proposed for a department office; any changes to the Federal Constitution which the Federal Council deems appropriate; and any other matter which the Federal Council places before members.

No restriction on the number of Australian Christians members permitted to attend the Australian Christians Convention. However, any attendees eligible to vote must be financial members of Australian Christians at the local level; and must be authorised by their branch to vote at the Convention. The number of votes from any one area must be no greater than that permitted by the proportional size of the Area's Delegate Proportion (refer to Table 1 in the appendix), when compared to the total vote.

11. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Australian Christians policies will be first developed by the Federal Standing Committee. This first draft policy is then subject to approval by the Federal Policy Director before being subject to final approval by the Federal Council.

State and Territory Australian Christians organisations may develop policy relating to specific issues in their area. However, State and Territory policy must not conflict with, and must be subservient to, Federal Australian Christians policy.

Australian Christians policy-making is based on these three guiding principles:

- It must demonstrate the Loving heart of God "We have the truth but must speak it in Love" Ephesians 4:15
- It must be based on sound Biblical Principles as given to us by God.
- It must support the Family as the God-given unit of society, based on the Ten Guiding Family Principles of Australian Christians.
"For God and the Family". Ephesians 5:22 and 5:24, and 6:4
"For Justice and Decency". Amos 5:12-15,24

All suggestions for new policies or amendments must be submitted to the Federal Policy Director. Such submissions must be endorsed by at least 10 financial members of the party.

The director will consider all submissions and respond within 30 days. At his or her discretion, may present the submission for consideration by the Federal Council.

If a submission is rejected by The Federal Policy Director, applicants have the right to appeal (within 30n days) to the Federal President who may then submit it to the Federal Council for consideration at the next Federal Council meeting.

12 AMENDMENTS TO THE PARTY'S STANDARDS

Potential Changes to the Federal Constitution and Rules, or any part of the Federal Constitution and Rules, of the AC may only be presented to the convention following an agreement by a majority of councillors Notice of proposed changes to the Constitution or any of the Rules, must be given to each branch, at least 90 days prior to the Federal Convention making a decision being made.

13 DISSOLUTION OF AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS

Dissolution of the Federal Australian Christians Party can only occur following a vote of all members of the Federal Council where at least an 80% majority of financial members approve the decision. If such dissolution were to occur, all assets of the Party would be transferred to the various State or Territory affiliated Australian Christians Parties in proportion equal to the proportion of Federal Council delegates from each State or Territory who are members of the Federal Council at time of dissolution.

If no affiliated AC Parties exist in one or more State or Territory, then the proportion of funds that would have been transferred to that Party or Parties will be instead be proportionally distributed to the remaining affiliated state parties

If no affiliated state parties exist, funds will be distributed to a similar organisation seeking to uphold Christian values in national affairs.

14 APPENDIX

TABLE ONE: Federal Council Delegates and Proportional Convention Voting Rights by area

* **Refers** to the total number of votes allowed by Convention attendees from any one area.

Area	Number of Council Delegates	Delegate Proportion*
Queensland	Two	19%
NSW	Two	30%
Victoria	Two	25%
South Australia	One	10%
Western Australia	Two	10%
Tasmania	One	2%
Australian Capital Territory	One	2%
Northern Territory	One	2%

15. REGULATIONS. (These are not part of the constitution & thus can be changed at any time by the FC. They are procedural, designed to implement the parts of the constitution itself, which is harder to change. Examples of procedural regulations are as follows:

1. Concerning membership applications. All applicants will supply contacts details for two references from pastors, or other suitable persons. Applications will be reviewed by the party's federal administration before the application for membership is approved. If the application is not approved, the membership fee payable will be returned forthwith.
2. When any member changes his residence to another state, he should obtain from his original branch a letter stating that he is moving to another state, is in good standing with the party and he must present it to the secretary of the state to which he removes. However any previous position he may have held on the state's council, does not automatically give him a right to sit on the new state's council.
3. Bar of the house. If at any time voting on matters tabled for action is to be executed, the officers will declare where the bar of the house is. The "bar of the house" divides voting members of a meeting from non-voting members. For the purpose of the vote, all non-voting members will sit behind the bar, which may be a row of seats or something else practicable.
4. Closing the court. If at any time, a member of council deems that a matter is of a highly sensitive nature, he may move that the court be closed. If passed, all non-voting members must leave the room while the matter is debated. Once it is decided the 'court' or meeting is opened again to all non-voting attendees.
5. Robert's Rules of Order is the standard 'bible' for the meeting procedures of AC.