

AUSTRALASIAN PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

CONSTITUTION

(Adopted - November 2010)

NAME

1. The name of the organisation is the Australasian Professional Legal Education Council.

INTERPRETATION

2. In this Constitution, unless the contrary intention appears:

'Admitting Authority' means the authority for approving the admission of persons to be Barristers and/or Solicitors in the relevant jurisdiction.

'APLEC' means the Australasian Professional Legal Education Council.

'Associate' means an associate accepted for membership of APLEC pursuant to clause 6.

'Course' means any undergraduate or postgraduate Practical Legal Training Course which is conducted for the purposes of qualifying graduates of the Course for admission to practise as a member of the legal profession or as a pre-requisite, following admission, for full practising rights.

'Delegate' means a representative of a member appointed by the member to the Council.

'Member' means a Course accepted for membership of APLEC pursuant to clauses 4 and 5.

'Special Resolution' means a resolution passed by a 75% majority of the members present and voting at a meeting of the Council.

OBJECTS

3. The objects of APLEC are:
 - 3.1 The furtherance of professional legal education and of the work and interests of those engaged in professional legal education in Australasia and elsewhere.
 - 3.2 The encouragement and organisation of publications concerning professional legal education.

- 3.3 The promotion of active co-operation of Australasian Legal Practice Courses with one another, with Legal Practice Courses elsewhere and with Law Schools, tertiary institutions and professional bodies in Australasia and elsewhere.
- 3.4 The maintenance of close relations with Law Schools and tertiary institutions and the legal profession in Australasia and elsewhere.
- 3.5 Co-operation with professional bodies and other bodies in the work of law reform.
- 3.6 The collection and publication of information about the functions and needs of Legal Practice Courses.
- 3.7 The organisation of an annual or biennial Conference.

MEMBERSHIP

4. The members of APLEC as at the date of this Constitution are the Courses listed below:

Australian Capital Territory

Australian National University - Legal Workshop

New South Wales

College of Law

University of Newcastle

University of Wollongong

University of Technology Sydney

University of Western Sydney

New Zealand

Institute of Professional Legal Studies

College of Law New Zealand

Papua New Guinea

Legal Training Institute

Queensland

Queensland University of Technology - Legal Practice Course

Bond University - Professional Legal Training Course

Griffith University – Legal Practice Centre

College of Law Queensland

South Australia

University of South Australia - Legal Practice Course

Flinders University

Tasmania

University of Tasmania - Tasmanian Legal Practice Course

Victoria

Leo Cussen Institute

College of Law Victoria

5. Any Course which has been accredited by the admitting authority for a country, state or territory may apply to the Council for membership of APLEC.
6. Applications for membership will be referred to the Council for consideration at its meeting. The Council may approve applications for membership only by special resolution.
7. A Course will cease to be a member of APLEC if:
 - 7.1 The Course withdraws from Membership.
 - 7.2 The Course ceases to exist or ceases to be accredited for the purposes set out in clause 5.
 - 7.3 The Course is removed from membership by special resolution of the Council.

ASSOCIATES

8. Staff engaged in the education and training of students of Legal Practice Courses and other persons who have an interest in the area of legal professional education and who support the objects of APLEC may apply to be an Associate.
9. Applications for Associate Membership shall be approved by the Council or by its delegate.
10. Associate membership shall apply for a calendar year and shall be renewable.
11. A person will cease to be an Associate of APLEC if:
 - the person withdraws from APLEC
 - the person ceases to be qualified as an Associate pursuant to clause 8
 - the person is removed as an Associate by special resolution of the Council.

LIFE AND HONORARY ASSOCIATES

12. The Council may, in accordance with its guidelines, confer Life or Honorary Associate status on any person.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

13. Members and Associates shall pay such annual subscription, if any, as is fixed by the Council.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

14. A Register of Members and of Associates shall be kept by the Secretariat.

THE COUNCIL

15. The Council shall be responsible for managing the affairs of APLEC.
16. The Council shall consist of up to two (2) delegates per member.
17. The Council shall meet at least twice in each year.

VOTING

18. At meetings of the Council each member may, through one of its delegates, exercise only one (1) vote provided that no one organisation, its branches, subsidiaries or affiliates may exercise more than 25% of the votes for the total membership.

CHAIRPERSON

19. The Chairperson shall be elected annually by the Council. A Chairperson shall not be entitled to hold office for more than two successive terms.

EXECUTIVE

20. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, the Immediate Past Chairperson, Secretary and up to 5 additional delegates elected annually by the Council provided that not more than 2 members of the Executive Committee may be representatives of the one organisation, of a branch or subsidiary of that organisation or affiliated to that organisation or to each other. The Executive Committee may exercise such powers as are delegated to it by the Council.

SECRETARIAT

21. The Council shall appoint a Secretariat from time to time.

FUNDS

22. The funds of the Council, other than those funds required for the annual conference, shall be held by the Secretariat.

MEETINGS

23. The Council shall hold an annual general meeting of members and Associates.

CONFERENCES

24. The Council shall hold annual or biennial conferences to be held at such time and in such location as the Council determines.

REPRESENTATIVES

25. The Council may appoint representatives to other organisations.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

26. This Constitution may be amended by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of members present and voting at a meeting of the Council of which not less than 14 days' notice has been given to all members.