



Constitution of the

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY INCORPORATED

2025

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. Name

The name of the society is New Zealand Society of Forensic Odontology Incorporated (in this Constitution referred to as the ‘Society’).

1.2. Charitable status

The Society is not and does not intend to be registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005.

1.3. Definitions

In this **Constitution**, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

‘**Act**’ means the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 or any Act which replaces it (including amendments to it from time to time), and any regulations made under the Act or under any Act which replaces it.

‘**Allied practitioner**’ means a **Member** of the **Society** who is registered with the Dental Council as an oral health practitioner but who is not a dentist or a dental specialist.

‘**Annual General Meeting**’ means a meeting of the **Members** of the **Society** held once per year which, among other things, will receive and consider reports on the **Society’s** activities and finances.

‘**Chairperson**’ means the **Officer** responsible for chairing **General Meetings** and **Executive** meetings, and who provides leadership for the **Society**. The **Chairperson** will usually be the **President** of the **Society** or their nominee.

‘**Constitution**’ means the rules in this document.

‘**Councillor**’ means a member of the Executive who is not an **Officer**.

‘**Dentistry**’ and ‘**Odontology**’ may be used interchangeably for the purposes of this Constitution, except when used in the name of the Society, where only the term ‘**Odontology**’ is to be used

‘**Deputy Chairperson**’ means the **Officer** elected or appointed to deputise in the absence of the **Chairperson**. The **Deputy Chairperson** will usually be the **President-Elect** of the **Society**.

‘**Executive**’ means the **Society’s** governing body.

‘**General Meeting**’ means either an **Annual General Meeting** or a **Special General Meeting** of the **Members** of the **Society**.

‘**Interested Member**’ means a **Member** who is interested in a matter for any of the reasons set out in section 62 of the **Act**.

‘**Interests Register**’ means the register of interests of **Officers**, kept under this **Constitution** and as required by section 73 of the **Act**.

‘**Matter**’ means—

- the **Society’s** performance of its activities or exercise of its powers; or

- an arrangement, agreement, or contract (a transaction) made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the **Society**.

‘Member’ means a person who has consented to become a **Member** of the **Society** and has been properly admitted to the **Society**, who has not ceased to be a **Member** of the **Society**. **Member** shall mean any class of **Member** except when specifically stated otherwise.

‘Notice’ to **Members** includes any notice given by email, post, or courier.

‘NZDA’ shall mean and include the New Zealand Dental Association Incorporated.

‘Officer’ means a natural person who is:

- a member of the **Executive**, or
- occupying a position in the **Society** that allows them to exercise significant influence over the management or administration of the **Society**.

‘President’ means the **Officer** responsible for the matters specifically noted in this **Constitution**.

‘Register of Members’ means the register of **Members** kept under this **Constitution** as required by section 79 of the **Act**.

‘Secretary’ means the **Officer** responsible for the matters specifically noted in this **Constitution**.

‘Special General Meeting’ means a meeting of the **Members**, other than an **Annual General Meeting**, called for a specific purpose or purposes.

‘President-Elect’ means the **Officer** responsible for the matters specifically noted in this **Constitution**.

‘Working Days’ mean as defined in the Legislation Act 2019. Examples of days that are not **Working Days** include, but are not limited to, the following — a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Boxing day, Day after New Year’s day, Waitangi Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, ANZAC Day, the Sovereign’s birthday, Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki/Matariki Observance Day, and Labour Day.

1.4. Purposes

The primary purposes of the Society are to —

- Advance the field of forensic odontology
- Establish high professional and clinical standards for the practice of forensic odontology
- Provide education and meetings of high scientific merit
- Facilitate collaboration with other forensic disciplines
- Promote and publish research
- Support the day-to-day provision of forensic odontology services
- Support the provision of forensic odontology services during mass fatality events nationally and internationally

The Society must not operate for the purpose of, or with the effect of —

- distributing any gain, profit, surplus, dividend, or other similar financial benefit to any of its **Members** (whether in money or in kind); or
- having capital that is divided into shares or stock held by its **Members**; or
- holding property in which its **Members** have a disposable interest (whether directly, or in the form of shares or stock in the capital of the society or otherwise).

But the **Society** will not operate for the financial gain of **Members** simply if the **Society** —

- engages in trade,
- pays a **Member** for matters that are incidental to the purposes of the **Society**, and the **Member** is a not-for-profit entity,
- distributes funds to a **Member** to further the purposes of the **Society**, and the **Member**—
 - is a not-for-profit entity, and
 - is affiliated or closely related to the **Society**, and
 - has the same, or substantially the same, purposes as those of the **Society**.
- reimburses a **Member** for reasonable expenses legitimately incurred on behalf of the Society or while pursuing the **Society's** purposes,
- provides benefits to members of the public or of a class of the public and those persons include **Members** or their families,
- provides benefits to **Members** or their families to alleviate hardship,
- provides educational scholarships or grants to **Members** or their families,
- pays a **Member** a salary or wages or other payments for services to the **Society** on arm's length terms (terms reasonable in the circumstances if the parties were connected or related only by the transaction in question, each acting independently, and each acting in its own best interests; or are terms less favourable to the **Member** than those terms and the payment for services, or other transaction, does not include any share of a gain, profit, or surplus, percentage of revenue, or other reward in connection with any gain, profit, surplus, or revenue of the **Society**),
- provides a **Member** with incidental benefits (for example, trophies, prizes, or discounts on products or services) in accordance with the purposes of the Society,
- on removal of the **Society** from the Register of Incorporated Societies having its surplus assets distributed under subpart 5 of Part 5 of the **Act** to a **Member** that is a not-for-profit entity.

1.5 Act and Regulations

Nothing in this **Constitution** authorises the **Society** to do anything which contravenes or is inconsistent with the **Act**, any regulations made under the Act, or any other legislation.

1.6 Powers

The **Society** shall have the power to do, undertake, and perform any one or more of the following acts and things, namely:

- To purchase, acquire, lease, hire, sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of real and personal property of all kinds
- To open, operate, and close Bank accounts in such a manner as the **Executive** shall determine

- To invest and deal with the monies of the **Society** not immediately required for the purposes of the **Society** in such a manner as the **Executive** may from time to time determine
- To amalgamate, affiliate and enter into reciprocal arrangements with any other association having objects wholly or in part similar to those of the **Society**
- To borrow money
- To enter into contracts in the same manner and to the same extent as a private person may do.

1.6. Registered office

The registered office of the **Society** shall be at such place in New Zealand as the **Executive** from time to time determines.

Changes to the registered office shall be notified to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies—

- at least 5 working days before the change of address for the registered office is due to take effect, and
- in a form and as required by the **Act**.

1.7. Contact person

The **Society** shall have at least 1 but no more than 3 contact person(s) whom the Registrar can contact when needed.

The **Society's** contact person must be:

- At least 18 years of age, and
- Ordinarily resident in New Zealand.

A contact person can be appointed by the **Executive** or elected by the **Members** at a **General Meeting**.

Each contact person's name must be provided to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies, along with their contact details, including:

- a physical address or an electronic address, and
- a telephone number.

Any change in that contact person or that person's name or contact details shall be advised to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies within 20 **Working Days** of that change occurring, or the **Society** becoming aware of the change.

1.8. Property of the Society

The property of the **Society** shall be under the control of the **Executive**, which shall be entitled to utilise the same or any part thereof for any purpose consistent with and in furtherance of the objects of the Society, but not otherwise.

2. MEMBERS

2.6. Minimum number of members

The Society shall maintain the minimum number of **Members** required by the **Act**.

2.7. Membership types

The types of membership and the method by which **Members** are admitted to different types of membership are as follows:

- **Full Member**
A **Full Member** is a dentist or dental specialist with an interest in forensic odontology who holds registration as a dentist in New Zealand **and** is a member in good standing of the NZDA.
- **Overseas Member**
An **Overseas Member** is a qualified dental practitioner with an interest in forensic odontology who resides outside New Zealand and who is a member of the national Dental Association of the country in which they reside.
- **Honorary Member**
An **Honorary Member** is a person, whose work has contributed to the advancement of forensic odontology or allied sciences. Honorary membership shall be for a period of one year or such period as the **Executive** may determine, and, at the discretion of the **Executive**, is renewable.
- **Life Member**
A **Life Member** is a person whose work has contributed significantly to the advancement of forensic odontology.
- **Associate Member**
An **Associate Member** is any person involved in forensic matters who, in the view of the **Executive**, has an interest and involvement in forensic odontology.

2.8. Becoming a member: consent

Every applicant for membership must consent in writing to becoming a **Member**.

2.9. Becoming a member: process

An applicant for membership must complete and sign any application form, supply any information reasonably required by the **Executive** regarding an application for membership and will become a **Member** on acceptance of that application by the **Executive**.

The **Executive** may accept or decline an application for membership at its sole discretion. The **Executive** must advise the applicant of its decision.

The signed written consent of every **Member** to become a **Society Member** shall be retained in the **Society's** membership records.

Process for specific member types:

- a. **Full member** A candidate applying to be a **Full Member** shall forward to the Secretary of the **Society** a written application. Each application shall be considered by the **Executive**, and **Full Member** status shall be decided by a simple majority. The decision of the **Executive** may be appealed and considered by a simple majority vote of all **Full Members** present at any **General Meeting**.
- b. **Overseas member** A candidate applying to be an **Overseas Member** shall forward a written application to the Secretary of the **Society** with a certified document to indicate their present status in good standing with the local national dental association and a

notarised copy of their dental qualifications. Each application shall be considered by the **Executive**, and **Overseas Membership** shall be decided by a simple majority. The decision of the **Executive** may be appealed and considered by a simple majority vote of all **Full Members** present at any **General Meeting**.

- c. **Honorary member** Candidates recommended as **Honorary Members** shall be nominated and seconded by current **Full Members** of the **Society**, and such nomination shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the **Society** in writing and duly signed by those **Full Members**. The **Executive** shall consider each nomination and shall decide by a simple majority vote. Such membership shall continue until the end of the current financial year of the **Society**. **Honorary members** of the **Society** shall be eligible for re-election.
- d. **Life Member** The Executive may nominate any appropriate person to be conferred a **Life Member** of the **Society**. Nominations for **Life Member** status are to be considered by a simple majority vote of all **Members** present at the next **Annual General Meeting**.
- e. **Associate Member** A candidate applying to be an **Associate Member** shall forward to the Secretary of the **Society** a written application. Each application shall be considered by the **Executive**, and **Associate Member** status shall be decided by a simple majority. The decision of the **Executive** may be appealed and considered by simple majority vote of all **Full Members** present at any **General Meeting**.

Application forms and associated requirements for each membership class are contained in the **Bylaws** of the **Society**.

2.10. Members' obligations and rights

Every **Member** shall provide the **Society** in writing with that **Member's** name and contact details (namely, physical or email address and a telephone number) and promptly advise the **Society** in writing of any changes to those details.

All **Members** shall promote the interests and purposes of the **Society** and shall do nothing to bring the **Society** into disrepute.

A **Member** is only entitled to exercise the rights of membership (including attending and voting at **General Meetings**, accessing or using the **Society's**, equipment and other property, and participating in **Society** activities) if all subscriptions and any other fees have been paid to the **Society** by their respective due dates, but no **Member** or **Life Member** is liable for an obligation of the **Society** by reason only of being a **Member**.

The **Executive** may decide what access or use **Members** may have of or to any premises, facilities, equipment or other property owned, occupied or otherwise used by the **Society**, and to participate in **Society** activities, including any conditions of and fees for such access, use or involvement.

Every **Member** of the **Society** shall be bound to conform in all respects to the **Constitution**, codes, and bylaws of the **Society** and of the **NZDA**. If in conflict, the ethical code and rules of the **NZDA** shall take precedence over those of the **Society**.

2.11. Subscriptions and fees

The annual subscription and any other fees for membership for the then current financial year shall be set by resolution of a **General Meeting** (which can also decide that payment be made by periodic instalments).

The membership subscription period shall be from 1 January to 31 December of each year.

Any **Member** failing to pay the annual subscription (including any periodic payment), any levy, or any capitation fees, within 20 **Working Days** of the date the same was due for payment shall be considered as unfinancial and shall (without being released from the obligation of payment) have no membership rights and shall not be entitled to participate in any **Society** activity or to access or use the **Society's** equipment and other property until all the arrears are paid. If such arrears are not paid within 40 **Working Days** of the due date for payment of the subscription, any other fees, or levy the **Executive** may terminate the **Member's** membership (without being required to give prior notice to that **Member**).

2.12. Ceasing to be a member

A **Member** ceases to be a **Member**;

- by resignation from that **Member's** class of membership by written notice signed by that **Member** to the **Executive**, or
- on termination of a **Member's** membership following a dispute resolution process under this **Constitution**, or
- on death, or
- by resolution of the **Executive** where—
 - The **Member** has failed to pay a subscription, levy or other amount due to the **Society** within 40 **Working Days** of the due date for payment.
 - The **Full Member** ceases to be a member in good standing with the **NZDA**.
 - In the opinion of the **Executive** the **Member** has brought the **Society** into disrepute.
 - The **Member** no longer meets the membership criteria defined in 2.7
 - In the opinion of the **Executive** the **Member** has wilfully failed to meet their obligations under this **Constitution**.

with effect from (as applicable) —

- the date of receipt of the **Member's** notice of resignation by the **Executive** (or any subsequent date stated in the notice of resignation), or
- the date of termination of the **Member's** membership under this **Constitution**, or
- the date of death of the **Member**, or
- the date specified in a resolution of the **Executive** and when a **Member's** membership has been terminated the **Executive** shall promptly notify the former **Member** in writing.

2.13. Obligations once membership has ceased

A **Member** who has ceased to be a **Member** under this **Constitution**—

- remains liable to pay all subscriptions and other fees to the **Society's** next balance date,
- shall cease to hold himself or herself out as a **Member** of the **Society**, and
- shall return to the **Society** all material provided to **Members** by the **Society** (including any identification cards, badges, handbooks and manuals).
- shall cease to be entitled to any of the rights of a **Society Member**.

2.14. Recommencing membership

Any former **Member** may apply for re-admission in the manner prescribed for new applicants and may be re-admitted only by resolution of the **Executive**.

However, if a former **Member's** membership was terminated following a disciplinary or dispute resolution process, the applicant may be re-admitted only by a resolution passed at a **General Meeting** on the recommendation of the **Executive**.

3. GENERAL MEETINGS

3.1 Procedures for all General Meetings

The Executive shall give all **Members** at least 15 **Working Days'** written **Notice** of any **General Meeting** and of the business to be conducted at that **General Meeting**.

That **Notice** will be addressed to the Members at the contact address notified to the **Society** and recorded in the **Society's** register of members. The **General Meeting** and its business will not be invalidated simply because one or more **Members** do not receive the **Notice** of the **General Meeting**.

Only financial **Members** may attend, speak, and vote at **General Meetings**. Attendance and voting may be —

- in person, or
- by a signed written proxy (or email) in favour of some individual entitled to be present at the meeting and received by, or handed to, the **Executive** before the commencement of the **General Meeting**, or
- no other proxy voting shall be permitted.

No **General Meeting** may be held unless at least 20 eligible financial **Members** attend throughout the meeting, and this will constitute a quorum.

If, within half an hour after the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting – if convened upon request of **Members** – shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall stand adjourned to a day, time and place determined by the **Chairperson** of the meeting, and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present those **Members** present in person or by proxy shall be deemed to constitute a sufficient quorum.

A **Member** is entitled to exercise one vote on any motion at a **General Meeting** in person or by proxy, and voting at a **General Meeting** shall be by voices or by show of hands or, on demand of the Chairperson or of 2 or more **Members** present, by secret ballot.

Unless otherwise required by this **Constitution**, all questions shall be decided by a simple majority of those in attendance in person or by proxy and voting at a **General Meeting** or voting by remote ballot.

Any decisions made when a quorum is not present are not valid.

Written resolutions may not be passed in lieu of a **General Meeting**.

General Meetings may be held at one or more venues by **Members** present in person and/or using any real-time audio, audio and visual, or electronic communication that gives each **Member** a reasonable opportunity to participate.

All **General Meetings** shall be chaired by the **Chairperson**. If the **Chairperson** is absent, the **Deputy Chairperson** shall chair that meeting.

Any person chairing a **General Meeting** has a deliberative and, in the event of a tied vote, a casting vote.

Any person chairing a **General Meeting** may —

- With the consent of a simple majority of **Members** present at any **General Meeting** adjourn the **General Meeting** from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned **General Meeting** other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- Direct that any person not entitled to be present at the **General Meeting**, or obstructing the business of the **General Meeting**, or behaving in a disorderly manner, or being abusive, or failing to abide by the directions of the **Chairperson** be removed from the **General Meeting**, and
- In the absence of a quorum or in the case of emergency, adjourn the **General Meeting** or declare it closed.

The **Executive** may propose motions for the **Society** to vote on ('**Executive Motions**'), which shall be notified to **Members** with the notice of the **General Meeting**.

- Any **Member** may request that a motion be voted on ('**Member's Motion**') at a **General Meeting**, by giving notice to the **Secretary** or **Executive** at least 30 **Working Days** before that meeting. The **Member** may also provide information in support of the motion ('**Member's Information**'). If notice of the motion is given to the **Secretary** or **Executive** before written **Notice** of the **General Meeting** is given to **Members**, notice of the motion shall be provided to **Members** with the written **Notice** of the **General Meeting**.

3.2 Minutes

The **Society** must keep minutes of all **General Meetings**.

3.3 Annual General Meetings: when they will be held

An **Annual General Meeting** shall be held once a year on a date and at a location and/or using any electronic communication determined by the **Executive** and consistent with any requirements in the **Act**, and the **Constitution** relating to the procedure to be followed at **General Meetings** shall apply.

The **Annual General Meeting** must be held no later than the earlier of the following—

- 6 months after the balance date of the **Society**
- 15 months after the previous annual meeting.

3.4 Annual General Meetings: business

The business of an **Annual General Meeting** shall be to—

- confirm the minutes of the last **Annual General Meeting** and any **Special General Meeting(s)** held since the last **Annual General Meeting**,
- adopt the annual report on the operations and affairs of the **Society**,
- adopt the **Executive's** report on the finances of the **Society**, and the annual financial statements,
- set any subscriptions,

- consider any motions of which prior notice has been given to **Members** with notice of the **Meeting**, and
- consider any general business.

The **Executive** must, at each **Annual General Meeting**, present the following information—

- an annual report on the operation and affairs of the **Society** during the most recently completed accounting period,
- the annual financial statements for that period, and
- notice of any disclosures of conflicts of interest made by **Officers** during that period (including a summary of the matters, or types of matters, to which those disclosures relate).

3.5 Special General Meetings

Special General Meetings may be called at any time by the **Executive** by resolution.

The **Executive** must call a **Special General Meeting** if it receives a written request signed by at least 15 percent of **Members**.

Any resolution or written request must state the business that the **Special General Meeting** is to deal with.

The rules in this **Constitution** relating to the procedure to be followed at **General Meetings** shall apply to a **Special General Meeting**, and a **Special General Meeting** shall only consider and deal with the business specified in the **Executive's** resolution or the written request by **Members** for the **Meeting**.

4. EXECUTIVE

4.1 Executive composition

The Executive will consist of at least 7 and no more than 9 **Officers** and **Councillors**.

All **Officers and Councillors** on the **Executive** must be **Members** of the **Society**.

The **Executive** shall consist of the **President, President-Elect, Secretary**, the **Associate Members' Representative**, and a maximum of four **Councillors**. The **Society NZ Police DVI Coordinator** will be an *ex officio* member of the Executive.

- All **Full Members** are eligible for election as members of the **Executive** by ballot at an AGM using simple majority voting by **Full Members** for each vacancy.
- **Associate Members** who are Allied Practitioners (DCNZ Registered) are eligible for election to the **Associate Members' Representative** position. The **Associate Members' Representative** shall be elected at the AGM by ballot using simple majority voting by **Full Members** and Allied Practitioners (DCNZ Registered).

The **Associate Member Representative** will have full voting rights at **Executive** meetings.

- *Ex-officio* members of the **Executive** have the same rights and privileges as all other members, including the right to vote.
- Any casual vacancies occurring among the **Executive** of the **Society** may be filled by the **Executive** for the time being, but any person so chosen shall retain the office only so long as the vacating member would have retained the same had no vacancy occurred.

4.2 Functions of the Executive

From the end of each **Annual General Meeting** until the end of the next, the **Society** shall be managed by, or under the direction or supervision of, the **Executive**, in accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, any Regulations made under that **Act**, and this **Constitution**.

The **Executive** shall

- Implement the decisions reached at meetings of the **Society**
- Subject to the **Bylaws** and **Constitution** of the **Society** take any action it thinks fit to promote the objects of the **Society** and safeguard the reputation of the **Society**.

4.3 Powers of the Executive

The **Executive** has all the powers necessary for managing — and for directing and supervising the management of — the operation and affairs of the **Society**, subject to such modifications, exceptions, or limitations as are contained in the **Act** or in this **Constitution**.

4.4 Sub-committees

The **Executive** may appoint sub-committees consisting of such persons and for such purposes as it thinks fit. Unless otherwise resolved by the **Executive**—

- the quorum of every sub-committee is half the number of members of the sub-committee but not less than 2.
- no sub-committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members,
- a sub-committee must not commit the **Society** to any financial expenditure without express authority from the **Executive**, and
- a sub-committee must not further delegate any of its powers.

4.5 Executive meetings

The quorum for **Executive** meetings is at least half the number of current members of the **Executive**.

A meeting of the **Executive** may be held either—

- by a number of the members of the **Executive** who constitute a quorum, being assembled together at the place, date and time appointed for the meeting; or
- by means of audio, or audio and visual, communication by which all members of the **Executive** participating and constituting a quorum can simultaneously hear each other throughout the meeting.

A resolution of the **Executive** is passed at any meeting of the **Executive** if a majority of the votes cast on it are in favour of the resolution. Every **Officer** on the **Executive** shall have one vote.

The **President** shall be the chairperson of the **Executive**. If at a meeting of the **Executive**, the **President** is not present, the **President-Elect** shall be the **Chairperson of the meeting**. The chairperson has a casting vote in the event of a tied vote on any resolution of the **Executive**.

Except as otherwise provided in this **Constitution**, the **Executive** may regulate its own procedure.

4.6 Frequency

The **Executive** shall meet as required at such times and places and in such manner (including by audio, audio and visual, or electronic communication) as it may determine and otherwise where and as convened by the **Chairperson** or **Secretary**.

The **Secretary**, or other **Executive** member nominated by the **Executive**, shall give to all **Executive** members not less than 5 **Working Days**' notice of **Executive** meetings, but in cases of urgency a shorter period of notice shall suffice.

5. OFFICERS AND COUNCILLORS

5.1 Qualifications of Officers

Every **Officer** and **Councillor** must be a natural person who—

- has consented in writing to be an **Officer** or **Councillor** of the **Society**, and
- certifies that they are not disqualified from being elected or appointed or otherwise holding office as an **Officer** or **Councillor** of the **Society**.

Officers and Councillors must not be disqualified under section 47(3) of the Act from being appointed or holding office as an **Officer** of the **Society**, namely—

- a person who is an undischarged bankrupt
- a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013, or the Takeovers Act 1993, or any other similar legislation
- A person who is disqualified from being a member of the governing body of a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005
- a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years—
 - an offence under subpart 6 of Part 4 of the **Act**
 - a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Crimes Act 1961)
 - an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act 1994
 - an offence, in a country other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (1) to (3)
 - a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere
- a person subject to:
 - a banning order under subpart 7 of Part 4 of the **Act**, or
 - an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003, or
 - a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009, or
 - a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.
- a person who is subject to an order that is substantially similar to an order referred to in paragraph (6) under a law of a country, State, or territory outside New Zealand that is a country, State, or territory prescribed by the regulations (if any) of the **Act**.

Prior to election or appointment as an **Officer** or **Councillor**, a person must—

- consent in writing to be an **Officer** or **Councillor**, and
- certify in writing that they are not disqualified from being elected or appointed as an **Officer** or **Councillor** either by this **Constitution** or the **Act**.

Note that only a natural person may be an **Officer** or **Councillor**, and each certificate shall be retained in the **Society's** records.

5.2 Officer and Councillor Duties

At all times, each **Officer** and **Councillor**:

- shall act in good faith and in what they believe to be the best interests of the **Society**,
- must exercise all powers for a proper purpose,
- must not act, or agree to the **Society** acting, in a manner that contravenes the **Act** or this **Constitution**,
- when exercising powers or performing duties as an **Officer** or **Councillor**, must exercise the care and diligence that a reasonable person with the same responsibilities would exercise in the same circumstances, taking into account, but without limitation:
 - the nature of the **Society**,
 - the nature of the decision, and
 - the position of the **Officer** or **Councillor** and the nature of the responsibilities undertaken by him or her
- must not agree to the activities of the **Society** being carried on in a manner likely to create a substantial risk of serious loss to the **Society** or the **Society's** creditors, or cause or allow the activities of the **Society** to be carried on in a manner likely to create a substantial risk of serious loss to the **Society** or the **Society's** creditors, and
- must not agree to the **Society** incurring an obligation unless they believe at that time on reasonable grounds that the **Society** will be able to perform the obligation when it is required to do so.

5.2.1 Duties of the President

The **President**, shall normally be the chairperson at **Executive** and **General** meetings of the **Society**. The **President**, with support from the **Secretary**, shall be responsible for the general supervision of any sub-Committees appointed by the **Executive** and shall have ex officio membership to the same. The **President**, with support from the **Secretary**, shall be responsible for the general operations of the **Society**.

5.2.2 Duties of the President-Elect

The **President-Elect** will support the **President** in the general operations of the **Society**. If a vacancy arises in the office of **President** prior to the completion of the **President's** term, **President-Elect** assumes office, and a **Special General Meeting** is convened to elect a new **President-Elect**.

5.2.3 Duties of the Secretary

The **Secretary** shall:

- Manage the finances of the **Society**, including;

- Receive all monies payable to the **Society** and pay such monies into such accounts at such financial institutions as the **Executive** directs from time to time.
- If directed to do so by the **Executive**, they shall pay monies from the funds of the **Society** to any person by way of reimbursement for travelling and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred in carrying out **Society** business.
- Provide a finance report to the **Executive** at each of its meetings.
- Present annually to the **Executive**, prior to the **Annual General Meeting**, an audited annual balance sheet and statement of accounts.
- Provide yearly an audited financial report for filing with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and shall present an audited financial report to the **Annual General Meeting**.
- Keep the minutes of all meetings of the **Society** both **General** and **Executive** and the results of all votes.
- Manage the correspondence of the **Society**.
- Present to the **Executive** all written and received correspondence.
- Administer votes as required by the **Constitution**.
- Notify **Executive** members of their election and applicants for membership of the result of their application.
- At the end of their term of office to deliver to their successor all funds and papers which they have received on behalf of the **Society**.
- Keep a register of **Members**.

5.3 Election of Officers

Except for the **President**, **Officers** shall be elected during **Annual General Meetings**. The **President-Elect** will assume the role of **President** at the conclusion of the incumbent **President's** second **Annual General Meeting** as **President**.

- If a vacancy in the position of any **Officer** (except the **President-Elect**) occurs between **Annual General Meetings**, that vacancy may be filled by resolution of the **Executive** and any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as an **Officer** (as described in the 'Qualification of Officers' rule above). Any such appointment must be ratified at the next **Annual General Meeting**.
- If a vacancy in the position of **President-Elect** occurs between **Annual General Meetings**, the **Society** shall convene a **Special General Meeting** and a **President-Elect** shall be elected in accordance with clause 5.3.1. The newly elected **President-Elect** completes the remaining term of the departing **President-Elect** before assuming the office of **President** for a two-year term.

Interim arrangements *For the initial adoption of this **Constitution**, a one-time interim arrangement will be enacted for the first **Annual General Meeting** (AGM). At this AGM only, **Members** will vote to elect both the **President** and the **President-Elect**. The individual elected as **President** will serve a full term as defined by this **Constitution**. The individual elected as **President-Elect** will assume the presidency at the conclusion of their **President-Elect** term. This interim provision will expire at the conclusion of the first AGM under this **Constitution**, and all future AGMs will adhere to the constitutional provisions for electing only the **President-Elect**.*

5.3.1 Officer election process

The election of **Officers** shall be conducted as follows.

- A candidate's written nomination, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee with certification that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as an **Officer** (as described in the 'Qualification of Officers' rule above) shall be received by the **Society** at least 10 **Working Days** before the date of the **Annual General Meeting**. If insufficient valid nominations are received for the positions available, further nominations may be made from the floor at the **Annual General Meeting**.
- At least 5 Working Days before the date of the **Annual General Meeting**, the **Society** shall give **Notice** to all **Members** by posting or emailing to them such information as may be supplied to the **Society** by or on behalf of each nominee, in support of their nomination.
- Only nominees who are not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as an **Officer** (as described in the 'Qualification of Officers' rule above) may stand for election and vote in elections.
- If there are insufficient valid nominations received under this rule, but not otherwise, further nominations may be received from the floor at the **Annual General Meeting**.
- If the number of nominees equals the number of vacancies for any particular Office, then the nominee or nominees for such Office shall be declared duly elected at the **Annual General Meeting** of the **Society**. If the number of candidates for any particular office exceeds the requisite number, the Chairperson at the **Annual General Meeting** shall arrange a vote.
- Votes shall be cast in such a manner as the **Chairperson** of the **Annual General Meeting** shall determine. In the event of any vote being tied, the tie shall be resolved by Members re-voting between those of whom the votes are tied.
- Two **Members** (who are not nominees) or non-**Members** appointed by the **Chairperson** shall act as scrutineers for the counting of the votes and destruction of any voting papers.
- The failure for any reason of any financial **Member** to receive such **Notice** shall not invalidate the election.
- In addition to **Officers** elected under the foregoing provisions of this rule, the **Executive** may appoint other **Officers** for a specific purpose, or for a limited period, or generally until the next **Annual General Meeting**. Unless otherwise specified by the **Executive** any person so appointed shall have full speaking and voting rights as an **Officer** of the **Society**. Any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as an **Officer** (as described in the 'Qualification of Officers' rule above)

5.3.2 Society President

The **President-Elect** shall serve a term of two (2) years expiring at the end of the **Annual General Meeting** in the year corresponding with the last year of the second year in office.

The **President-Elect** shall automatically assume the office of **President** for a term of two (2) years expiring at the end of the **Annual General Meeting** in the year corresponding with the last year of the second year in office.

5.4 Term

The term of office for all **Officers** elected to the **Executive** shall be 2 year(s), expiring at the end of the **Annual General Meeting** in the year corresponding with the last year of each **Officer's** term of office. No **Officer** or **Councillor** shall serve for more than 3 consecutive terms except if the final term is that of **President**.

5.5 Removal of Councillors and Officers

An **Officer** or **Councillor** shall be removed as a member of the **Executive** of the **Society** by resolution of the **Executive** or the **Society** where in the opinion of the **Executive** or the **Society**

- The **Officer** or **Councillor** elected to the **Executive** has been absent from 2 **Executive** meetings without leave of absence from the **Executive**.
- The **Officer** or **Councillor** has brought the **Society** into disrepute.
- The **Officer** or **Councillor** has failed to disclose a material conflict of interest.
- The **Executive** passes a vote of no confidence in the **Officer** or **Councillor**.

with effect from (as applicable) the date specified in a resolution of the **Executive** or **Society**.

5.6 Ceasing to hold office

An **Officer** ceases to hold office when they resign (by notice in writing to the **Executive**), cease to be a **Member**, are removed, die, or otherwise vacate office in accordance with section 50(1) of the **Act**.

Each **Officer** shall within 20 **Working Days** of submitting a resignation or ceasing to hold office, deliver to the **Executive** all books, papers and other property of the **Society** held by such former **Officer**.

5.7 Conflicts of interest

An **Officer**, **Councillor** or member of a sub-committee who is an **Interested Member** in respect of any **Matter** being considered by the **Society**, must disclose details of the nature and extent of the interest (including any monetary value of the interest if it can be quantified)—

- to the **Executive** and or sub-committee, and
- in an **Interests Register** kept by the **Executive**.

Disclosure must be made as soon as practicable after the **Officer** or member of a sub-committee becomes aware that they are interested in the **Matter**.

An **Officer**, **Councillor** or member of a sub-committee who is an **Interested Member** regarding a **Matter**—

- must not vote or take part in the decision of the **Executive** and/or sub-committee relating to the **Matter** unless all members of the **Executive** who are not interested in the **Matter** consent; and
- must not sign any document relating to the entry into a transaction or the initiation of the **Matter** unless all members of the **Executive** who are not interested in the **Matter** consent; but
- may take part in any discussion of the **Executive** and/or sub-committee relating to the **Matter** and be present at the time of the decision of the **Executive** and/or sub-committee (unless the **Executive** and/or sub-committee decides otherwise).

However, an **Officer, Councillor** or member of a sub-committee who is prevented from voting on a **Matter** may still be counted for the purpose of determining whether there is a quorum at any meeting at which the **Matter** is considered.

Where 50 per cent or more of **Officers** or **Councillors** are prevented from voting on a **Matter** because they are interested in that **Matter**, a **Special General Meeting** must be called to consider and determine the **Matter**, unless all non-interested **Officers** or **Councillors** agree otherwise.

Where 50 per cent or more of the members of a sub-committee are prevented from voting on a **Matter** because they are interested in that **Matter**, the **Executive** shall consider and determine the **Matter**.

6. RECORDS

6.1 Register of members

The **Society** shall keep an up-to-date **Register of Members**.

For each current **Member**, the information contained in the Register of Members shall include—

- Their name, and
- The date on which they became a **Member** (if there is no record of the date they joined, this date will be recorded as ‘Unknown’), and
- Their contact details, including —
 - A physical address or an electronic address, and
 - A telephone number.

The register will also include each **Member's** —

- practicing address
- email address (if any)
- occupation and scope
- whether the **Member** is financial or unfinancial

Every current **Member** shall promptly advise the **Society** of any change of the **Member's** contact details.

The **Society** shall also keep a record of the former **Members** of the **Society**. For each **Member** who ceased to be a **Member** within the previous 7 years, the **Society** will record:

- The former **Member's** name, and
- The date the former **Member** ceased to be a **Member**.

6.2 Interests Register

The **Executive** shall at all times maintain an up-to-date register of the interests disclosed by **Officers** and by members of any sub-committee.

6.3 Access to information for members

A **Member** may at any time make a written request to the **Society** for information held by the **Society**.

The request must specify the information sought in sufficient detail to enable the information to be identified.

The **Society** must, within a reasonable time after receiving a request —

- provide the information, or
- agree to provide the information within a specified period, or
- agree to provide the information within a specified period if the **Member** pays a reasonable charge to the **Society** (which must be specified and explained) to meet the cost of providing the information, or
- refuse to provide the information, specifying the reasons for the refusal.

Without limiting the reasons for which the **Society** may refuse to provide the information, the **Society** may refuse to provide the information if —

- withholding the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons, or
- the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial position of the **Society** or of any of its **Members**, or
- the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the financial or commercial position of any other person, whether or not that person supplied the information to the **Society**, or
- the information is not relevant to the operation or affairs of the society, or
- withholding the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege, or
- the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, breach an enactment, or
- the burden to the **Society** in responding to the request is substantially disproportionate to any benefit that the **Member** (or any other person) will or may receive from the disclosure of the information, or
- the request for the information is frivolous or vexatious, or
- the request seeks information about a dispute or complaint which is or has been the subject of the procedures for resolving such matters under this **Constitution** and the **Act**.

If the **Society** requires the **Member** to pay a charge for the information, the **Member** may withdraw the request, and must be treated as having done so unless, within 10 **Working Days** after receiving notification of the charge, the **Member** informs the **Society** —

- that the **Member** will pay the charge; or
- that the **Member** considers the charge to be unreasonable.

Nothing in this rule limits Information Privacy Principle 6 of the Privacy Act 2020 relating to access to personal information.

7. FINANCES

7.1 Control and management

The funds and property of the **Society** shall be—

- controlled, invested and disposed of by the **Executive**, subject to this **Constitution**, and
- devoted solely to the promotion of the purposes of the **Society**.

The **Executive** shall maintain bank accounts in the name of the **Society**.

All money received on account of the **Society** shall be banked within 20 Working Days of receipt.

All accounts paid or for payment shall be submitted to the **Executive** for approval of payment.

The **Executive** must ensure that there are kept at all times accounting records that—

- correctly record the transactions of the **Society**, and
- allow the **Society** to produce financial statements that comply with the requirements of the **Act**, and
- would enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.

The **Executive** must establish and maintain a satisfactory system of control of the **Society's** accounting records.

The accounting records must be kept in written form or in a form or manner that is easily accessible and convertible into written form. And the accounting records must be kept for the current accounting period and for the last 7 completed accounting periods of the **Society**.

7.2 Balance date

The **Society's** financial year shall commence on 01/01 of each year and end on 31/12 (the latter date being the **Society's** balance date).

7.3 Independent Financial Review

. An Independent Reviewer, who must not be a **Member** of the **Society**, will be appointed at each **Annual General Meeting** to undertake an annual review of the Society's finances. If the office becomes vacant, the **Executive** may appoint an interim Reviewer to serve until the next **Annual General Meeting**.

7.4 Bank accounts

Any two of the **President**, **President-Elect**, and **Secretary** shall be signatories to any account of the **Society** or otherwise as the **Executive** shall determine.

7.5 Inspection of the books

Any **Member** having an interest in the funds of the **Society** may, by arrangement with the **Secretary**, inspect the books of the **Society** and its **Register of Members** provided that such a person may only require such inspection at reasonable and convenient times upon reasonable previous notice having been given to the **Secretary**.

8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

8.1 Meanings of dispute and complaint

A dispute is a disagreement or conflict involving the **Society** and/or its **Members** in relation to specific allegations set out below.

The disagreement or conflict may be between **Members**, **Officers** and/or with the **Society**.

The disagreement or conflict relates to a **Member** or **Officer** who has engaged in misconduct, or has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the **Society's Constitution** or bylaws or the **Act** or **Member's** rights or interests as a Member have been damaged.

A **Member** or an **Officer** may make a complaint by giving to the **Executive** (or a complaints subcommittee) a notice in writing that—

- states that the **Member** or **Officer** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Society's Constitution**; and
- sets out the allegation(s) to which the dispute relates and whom the allegation or allegations is or are against; and
- sets out any other information or allegations reasonably required by the **Society**.

The **Society** may make a complaint involving an allegation against a **Member** or an **Officer** by giving to the **Member** or **Officer** a notice in writing that—

- states that the **Society** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Society's Constitution**; and
- sets out the allegation to which the dispute relates.

The information setting out the allegations must be sufficiently detailed to ensure that a person against whom an allegation or allegations is made is fairly advised of the allegation or allegations concerning them, with sufficient details given to enable that person to prepare a response.

A complaint may be made in any other reasonable manner permitted by the **Society's Constitution**.

All **Members** (including the **Executive**) are obliged to cooperate to resolve disputes efficiently, fairly, and with minimum disruption to the **Society's** activities.

The complainant raising a dispute, and the **Executive**, must consider and discuss whether a dispute may best be resolved through informal discussions, mediation, arbitration, or a tikanga-based practice. Where mediation or arbitration is agreed on, the parties will sign a suitable mediation or arbitration agreement.

8.2 How a complaint is made

A **Member** or an **Officer** may make a complaint by giving to the **Executive** (or a complaints subcommittee) a notice in writing that—

- states that the **Member** or **Officer** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Society's Constitution**; and
- sets out the allegation or allegations to which the dispute relates and whom the allegation is against; and
- sets out any other information reasonably required by the **Society**.

The **Society** may make a complaint involving an allegation or allegations against a **Member** or an **Officer** by giving to the **Member** or **Officer** a notice in writing that—

- states that the **Society** is starting a procedure for resolving a dispute in accordance with the **Society's Constitution**; and
- sets out the allegation to which the dispute relates.

The information given must be sufficient to ensure that a person against whom an allegation is made is fairly advised of the allegation or allegations concerning them, with sufficient details given to enable that person to prepare a response.

A complaint may be made in any other reasonable manner permitted by the **Society's Constitution**.

8.2 Person who makes a complaint has the right to be heard

A **Member** or an **Officer** who makes a complaint has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined.

If the **Society** makes a complaint—

- the **Society** has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined; and
- an **Officer** may exercise that right on behalf of the **Society**.

Without limiting the manner in which the **Member**, **Officer**, or **Society** may be given the right to be heard, they must be taken to have been given the right if—

- they have a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing (if one is held); and
- an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
- an oral hearing (if any) is held before the decision maker; and
- the **Member's**, **Officer's**, or **Society's** written or verbal statement or submissions (if any) are considered by the decision maker.

8.3 Person who is the subject of the complaint has the right to be heard

This clause applies if a complaint involves an allegation that a **Member**, an **Officer**, or the **Society** (the 'respondent')—

- has engaged in misconduct; or
- has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the **Society's Constitution** or bylaws or this **Act**; or
- has damaged the rights or interests of a **Member** or the rights or interests of **Members** generally.

The respondent has a right to be heard before the complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined.

If the respondent is the **Society**, an **Officer** may exercise the right on behalf of the **Society**.

Without limiting the manner in which a respondent may be given a right to be heard, a respondent must be taken to have been given the right if—

- the respondent is fairly advised of all allegations concerning the respondent, with sufficient details and time given to enable the respondent to prepare a response; and
- the respondent has a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing (if one is held); and
- an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
- an oral hearing (if any) is held before the decision maker; and
- the respondent's written statement or submissions (if any) are considered by the decision maker.

8.4 Investigating and determining the disputes

The **Society** must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving or becoming aware of a complaint made in accordance with its **Constitution**, ensure that the dispute is investigated and determined.

Disputes must be dealt with under the **Constitution** in a fair, efficient, and effective manner and in accordance with the provisions of the **Act**.

8.5 Society may decide not to proceed further with the complaint

Despite the ‘Investigating and determining dispute’ rule, the **Society** may decide not to proceed further with a complaint if it is considered to be trivial, or without foundation, or there is no apparent evidence to support it or the conduct, incident, event, or issue giving rise to the complaint has already been investigated and dealt with under the **Constitution**; or there has been an undue delay in making the complaint.

8.6 Society may refer a complaint

The **Society** may refer a complaint to a subcommittee or an external person to investigate and report; and/or make a decision.

The **Society** may, with the consent of all parties to a complaint, refer the complaint to any type of consensual dispute resolution (for example, mediation, facilitation, or a tikanga-based practice).

8.7 Decision makers

A person may not act as a decision maker in relation to a complaint if two or more members of the **Executive** or a complaints subcommittee consider that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person may not be impartial; or able to consider the matter without a predetermined view.

9. LIQUIDATION AND REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER

9.1 Resolving to put the Society into liquidation

The **Society** may be liquidated in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 of the **Act**.

The **Executive** shall give 20 **Working Days** written **Notice** to all **Members** of the proposed resolution to put the **Society** into liquidation.

The **Executive** shall also give written **Notice** to all **Members** of the **General Meeting** at which any such proposed resolution is to be considered. The **Notice** shall include all information as required by section 228(4) of the **Act**.

Any resolution to put the **Society** into liquidation must be passed by a two-thirds majority of all **Members** present and voting.

9.2 Resolving to apply for removal from the register

The **Society** may be removed from the Register of Incorporated Societies in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 of the **Act**.

The **Executive** shall give 20 **Working Days** written **Notice** to all **Members** of the proposed resolution to remove the **Society** from the Register of Incorporated Societies.

The **Executive** shall also give written **Notice** to all **Members** of the **General Meeting** at which any such proposed resolution is to be considered. The **Notice** shall include all information as required by section 228(4) of the **Act**.

Any resolution to remove the **Society** from the Register of Incorporated Societies must be passed by a two-thirds majority of all **Members** present and voting.

9.3 Surplus assets

If the **Society** is liquidated or removed from the Register of Incorporated Societies, no distribution shall be made to any **Member**.

On the liquidation or removal from the Register of Incorporated Societies of the **Society**, its surplus assets — after payment of all debts, costs and liabilities shall be distributed to the New Zealand Dental Association.

However, in any resolution under this rule, the **Society** may approve a different distribution to a different not-for-profit entity from that specified above, so long as the **Society** complies with this **Constitution** and the **Act** in all other respects.

10. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSITUTION

10.1 Amending this constitution

All amendments must be made in accordance with this **Constitution**. Any minor or technical amendments shall be notified to **Members** as required by section 31 of the **Act**.

The **Society** may amend or replace this **Constitution** at a **General Meeting** by a resolution passed by a two-thirds of majority of those **Members** present and voting.

That amendment may be approved by a resolution passed in lieu of a meeting but only if authorised by this **Constitution**.

Any proposed resolution to amend or replace this **Constitution** shall be signed by at least 25 per cent of eligible **Members** and given in writing to the **Executive** at least 20 **Working Days** before the **General Meeting** at which the resolution is to be considered and accompanied by a written explanation of the reasons for the proposal.

At least 10 **Working Days** before the **General Meeting** at which any amendment is to be considered the **Executive** shall give to all **Members** notice of the proposed resolution, the reasons for the proposal, and any recommendations the **Executive** has.

When an amendment is approved by a **General Meeting** it shall be notified to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies in the form and manner specified in the **Act** for registration and shall take effect from the date of registration.

11. OTHER

11.1 Common Seal

The **Society** will have a common seal that must be kept in the custody of the **Secretary**. The common seal may be affixed to any document by resolution of the **Executive** and must be countersigned by 2 **Officers** or by such other means as the **Executive** may resolve from time to time.

11.2 Bylaws

The **Executive** from time to time may make and amend bylaws, and policies for the conduct and control of **Society** activities and codes of conduct applicable to **Members**, but no such bylaws, policies or codes of conduct applicable to **Members** shall be inconsistent with this **Constitution**, the **Act**, regulations made under the **Act**, or any other legislation.