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# Special General Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 28 September 2023; Time: 7:30pm AEST

Chair: Fiona Woods, President

Minutes: Christina Micallef, Executive Assistant

Stephen Belbin, BCA Vice-President, opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.

## Roll Call

Present: **(F = full member, A = associate member, G = guest)**

**Robert Altamore (F), Michael Baker (F), Stephen Belbin (F), Emma Bennison (F), Natasha Brake (F), Lee Chong (F), Joanne Chua (F), Corey Crawford (A), Skye de Vent (F), Tony Delmadoros (F), Brendon Donohue (F), Maree Fenech (F), Helen Freris (F), Peta Hogan (A), Cathy Horner (F), Graeme Innes (F), Zel Iscel (F), Pari Ismael (F), Francois Jacobs (F), Angela Jaeschke (A), Michael Janes (F), William Jolley (F), Joyce Jones (F), Peter Grecco (F), Cynthia Gregory (F), Sally Karandrews (F), Karen Knight (F), Ramona Mandy (F), Samantha Marsh (F), John Machin (F), David Morrell (F), Christina Micallef (F), Doug McGinn (F), Kevin Murfitt (F) Jennifer Parry (F), Paul Price (F), Jackson Reynolds-Ryan (G), Susie Rich (F), Eric Seery (F), Marie Shang (F), Samson James (F), John Simpson (F), Martin Stewart (F), Kristy Stichter (F), Julie Sutherland (F), Katrina Taylor (F), Susan Thompson (F), Bettina Twyman (A), Prue Watt (F), Andrew Webster (F), Fiona Woods (F).**

Attendees (Total): 51

Eligible to vote (full members only): 46 (quorum achieved)

### Declaration of proxies held:

Kevin Boyce (F), Maryanne Diamond (F), Gwen Isaac (F), Nick Pascual (F).

### ****Apologies (no proxy):****

**Deb Deshayes (F), Helen Simons (F), Kerry Skipworth (F), Vaughn Bennison (F), Christine Simpson (F).**

## Special Resolution

**"That BCA's constitution be revised as proposed in the Constitution dated July 2023, in accordance with section 40 of BCA's Constitution (2017), and with section 136 (2) of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth). The revised constitution will take effect from the conclusion of this Special General Meeting".**

**Move to accept the resolution: Stephen Belbin. Second: Andrew Webster.**

## ****Discussion****

* **Susan Thompson expressed concern about voting on the entire document when may have an issue with one element, in particular that there is no requirement to hold a National Convention. Fiona confirmed that voting on the entire document was based on legal advice received. Point 16.2 states the opportunity to meet on a National level, either virtually or in person, must be held once every two years**
* **David Morrell gave positive feedback regarding satisfaction with the direction the Constitution is taking, especially the alignment with the ACNC and the Act and inclusion of Australian residents rather than only citizens.**
* **Michael Janes noted a formatting issue with regard to headings / subheadings and readability of the document. To be reviewed and amended.**
* **Paul Price queried the removal of organisational members. Fiona confirmed no organisational members currently, and previously were only organisations for people who are blind, with very few still around today. Emma Bennison added there was also a decision to move to developing partnership agreements with organisations as a more contemporary approach to these relationships.**
* **Jennifer Parry sought clarification regarding the need for physical signatures. Fiona highlighted Section 55b which details acceptable options in this regard.**
* **Ramona Mandy queried the implication of the name Blind Citizens Australia by opening up membership to non-citizens. There is no plan to change the name.**
* **Michael Janes voiced disappointment that a National convention was not held in 2023. Francois Jacobs confirmed the decision was based on member feedback.**
* **Michael Janes also expressed support for the name change of the National Policy Council to the National Policy Committee.**

## ****Voting****

**Votes in favour 42**

**Proxies in favour 4**

**Total in favour 46**

**Votes against 1**

**Proxies against 0**

**Total against 1**

**% in favour 92.00%**

**Passed as a special resolution with >75% in favour.**

Meeting closed: 8:20pm**.**

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