

CONSTITUTION

*as amended to
25 August 2000*

Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory

*An Association
incorporated under
the
Associations Incorporation Act (NT)*

**Including the objects and purposes and rules of the Association
within the meaning of the *Associations Incorporation Act (NT)***

CONSTITUTION

Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory

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CONSTITUTION

1 Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory

As amended to 1 July 2000

Preamble The Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory, as a member of the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia, represents multicultural interests in the Northern Territory. Operating without political or sectarian affiliation, it provides advocacy services and general assistance, on a not for profit basis and without discrimination on account of gender, race, culture, religion or nationality, to multicultural groups, in order to promote their full participation in a cohesive Australian multicultural society.

PART I - PRELIMINARY

Name of the Association 1 The name of the Association shall be the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory Incorporated (in this Constitution called "the Council").

Definitions 2 For the purposes of this Constitution, unless the contrary intention appears:

"Act" means the *Association Incorporation Act (NT)*.

"Annual general meeting" means a general meeting of the members of the Council as provided for in section 10.

"Associate member" means an associate member of the Council as defined in subsection 5(3)

"Committee" means the Executive Committee of the Council as referred to in section 12.

"Committee member" means the members of the Committee as referred to in subsections 12(a) and (b).

"Corporate associate member" means an associate member as defined in subsection 5(3)(b).

"Executive member" means a member of the Executive Committee as referred to in section 12(b).

"Financial" member or associate member means a member or associate member who or which has paid the subscription referred to in subsection 10(3)(e) in accordance with subsection 6(7).

"Financial year" means the period from 1 July to 30 June.

"General meeting" means a meeting of the members of the Council convened in accordance with section 9, and, where that term is used without qualification, refers to both annual general meetings and special general meetings.

"Honorary position" means a position referred to in subsection 10(3)(d).

"Individual associate member" means an associate member of the Council as defined in subsection 5(3)(a).

"Member", where that term is used without qualification, means all members of the Council, regardless of the category of membership.

"Office Bearer" means a member of the Executive Committee as referred to in section 12(a).

"President" means the President of the Council as referred to in subsection 12(a).

"Public Officer" means the Public Officer of the Council as referred to in subsection 19(5).

"Regional Multicultural Council" means an organisation as defined in subsection 6(2).

"Secretary" means the Secretary of the Council as referred to in section 12(a).

"Senior Vice President" means the Senior Vice President of the Council as referred to in subsection 12(a).

"Special business" has the meaning referred to in subsection 9(2).

"Special general meeting" means a general meeting of members of the Council as provided for in section 11.

"Special meeting" means a special meeting of the Committee, as provided for in sub-sections 9(7)(a) and 17(2).

"Special resolution" means a majority of two thirds of members eligible to vote at a general meeting or a Committee meeting.

"Treasurer" means the Treasurer of the Council as referred to in subsection 12(a).

"Vice-President" means the Vice-President of the Council as referred to in subsection 12(a).

PART II – OBJECTS OF THE COUNCIL

Objects and purposes of the Council

- 3 The objects and purposes of the Council are:
- (a) to promote joint action and co-operation between multicultural groups on issues of common concern;
 - (b) to ensure the rights of multicultural groups to a fair share of community resources and to participate in the decision making process on issues which affect or concern them;
 - (c) to seek equality and social justice for migrants, multicultural groups and individuals of non-English speaking backgrounds;

- (d) to encourage the establishment and development of multicultural groups concerned with the social and cultural life of their communities;
- (e) to participate actively in the development of a non-racial and socially cohesive society with interaction rather than isolation from the mainstream of Australian life;
- (f) to promote greater appreciation of the different customs and cultures within the Australian society;
- (g) to undertake all matters, including, but not limited to, acquiring and disposing of real and personal property, publishing material, accepting gifts, raising funds, borrowing and (subject to the provisions of the *Trustee Act (NT)*) investing money, and making donations (to the recipients referred to in section 78(1)(a) if the *Income Tax Assessment Act (Cth)*), which are incidental to the attainment of the objects and purposes of the Council and which are consistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

Geographic area 4 The geographic area within which the Council shall function, carry out its objects and exercise its powers shall be the whole of the Northern Territory of Australia.

PART III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Council 5 (1) Membership of the Council shall be comprised of members and associate members.

Members

- (2) Members of the Council shall be:
 - (a) Regional Multicultural Councils in the Northern Territory accredited to the Council pursuant to section 6; and
 - (b) multicultural organisations that subscribe to the objects of the Council, that have objects consistent with those of the Council, and which are admitted as members pursuant to section 6.

Associate members

- (3) Associate members of the Council shall be:
 - (a) individuals who are Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia, whose permanent place of residence is in the Northern Territory and who subscribe to the objects of the Council (in this Constitution called “individual associate members”); and
 - (b) government or non-government organisations in the Northern Territory that subscribe to the objects of the Council, but which are not eligible for membership pursuant to subsection 5(2)(b) (in this Constitution called “corporate associate members”);

admitted as associate members pursuant to section 6.

Admission to membership 6 (1) The committee may admit to membership or associate membership of the Council any individual or organisation, and may accredit as a member any Regional Multicultural Council, in accordance with the provisions of this section.

**Regional
Ethnic
Community
Councils**

- (2) Regional Multicultural Councils:
 - (a) may be accredited as members of the Council by resolution of the Committee;
 - (b) shall consist of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and any other member the Committee deems necessary, and shall be elected in such manner and on such terms as the Committee directs;
 - (c) shall conduct their affairs in a manner consistent with the objects of the Council

Nominations

- (3) Nomination of a multicultural organization for membership of the Council shall be:
 - (a) in the form prescribed by the Committee and supported by a financial member of the Council; and
 - (b) accompanied by the written consent of an Office Bearer of the organization.
- (4) Nomination of an individual or organisation for associate membership of the Council shall be:
 - (a) in the form prescribed by the Committee and supported by a financial member or associate member of the council; and
 - (b) accompanied by the written consent of the individual or, in relation to an organisation, of an executive officer of the organisation.

**Consideration
of applications**

- (5) As soon as practicable after receipt, an application for membership or associate membership shall be considered by the Committee, which shall either accept or reject the application.
- (6) Where the Committee accepts an application pursuant to this section, and following payment of the prescribed membership fee, the Applicant becomes a member or associate member, as the case may be, of the Council.

Subscriptions

- (7) The annual subscriptions payable by general and associate members, as fixed pursuant to subsection 10(3)(e), are due and payable prior to the following annual general meeting.

**Register of
members**

- (8) The Secretary shall keep a Register of members and associate members.

**Resignations
and lapsed
membership**

- (9) A member or associate member may, at any time, resign from the Council by delivering to the Secretary a written notice of resignation.
- (10) The membership of an individual or organization lapses if membership fees have not been paid in accordance with subsection (7).
- (11) Where a member or associate member has resigned or their membership has lapsed, any renewal of membership or associate membership must be in accordance with the provisions of this section.

**Cancellation
and suspension
of membership**

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- (1) The Committee may suspend a member or associate member for a specified period of up to six months if, in the opinion of the Committee, the member, through its servants or agents, or associate member has been guilty of conduct detrimental to the interests of the Council.
- (2) The Committee may recommend to a general meeting that a membership or

associate membership of the Council be cancelled or suspended for a period in excess of six months on the grounds set out in subsection (1).

Service of notice

- (3) Where a suspension pursuant to subsection (1) or a recommendation pursuant to subsection (2) is made by the Committee, the Public Officer shall serve on the member or associate member, the subject of the suspension or recommendation, a notice in writing advising of the suspension or recommendation, specifying the grounds and setting out the rights of the member or associate member pursuant to subsection (4).
- (4) A member or associate member on whom a notice is served pursuant to subsection (3), may by notice in writing delivered to the Public Officer within 14 days of receipt of the notice:

Right of review

- (a) request that the suspension or recommendation be reviewed by the Committee, in which event the provisions of sub-sections (5) and (6) shall apply; or

Right of appeal

- (b) elect to make submissions, either orally or in writing, to a general meeting of the Council against the suspension or recommendation of the Committee, in which event the provisions of subsections (9) to (12) shall apply.

Review process

- (5) Where a request is received pursuant to sub-section (4)(a), the Committee:
 - (a) shall provide a reasonable opportunity to the member to be heard at a meeting of the Committee in relation to the notice; and
 - (b) may, at its discretion, provide appropriate mechanisms and procedures, including mediation, for canvassing or resolving any matter relevant to the issue of the notice.
- (6) When, in the opinion of the Committee, the process under sub-section (5) has been completed, the Committee shall, by secret ballot, either affirm or revoke the suspension or recommendation and, within 14 days, the Public Officer shall notify the member in writing of its decision.

Appeal following review

- (7) Upon receipt of a notification under subsection (6) affirming the notice, the provisions of subsection (4)(b) take effect as though the notification were a notice under the latter subsection.

Appeal process

- (8) Subject to subsections (5) and (6), a suspension or recommendation made in accordance with subsections (1) or (2) shall be referred to a general meeting pursuant to subsections 11(1), (5) and (6).
- (9) At a general meeting held pursuant to this section:
 - (a) the Committee shall provide details of the reasons for the suspension or recommendation;
 - (b) the member or associate member the subject of the suspension or recommendation shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
 - (d) the members and associate members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question of whether or not to confirm the suspension or cancel or suspend the membership or associate membership in accordance with the recommendation pursuant to subsection (2);
 - (e) where there is a decision not to cancel the membership or associate membership as recommended pursuant to subsection (2), and if there

is a motion from the floor of the meeting to suspend the membership or associate membership for a specified period, the members and associate members present shall vote on that motion by secret ballot; and

- (f) a suspension or recommendation made pursuant to subsections (1) or (2), or a motion put forward pursuant to subsection (9)(e), will not be upheld unless it is passed by special resolution.

Where decision confirmed

- (10) Other than in relation to a suspension referred to in subsection (1), where there is a vote to cancel or suspend the membership, the cancellation or suspension shall take effect immediately.

Where suspension not upheld

- (11) Where a suspension made pursuant to subsection (1) is not upheld, the membership or associate membership shall be deemed to have continued as though the decision pursuant to sub-section (1) had not been made.

Right to reapply

- (12) Where a membership or associate membership is canceled pursuant to this section, a fresh application for membership or associate membership may be made after a period of two years from the time of cancellation, in which event the Committee may accept or reject the application at its discretion.

Notices

8

- (1) A requirement of the Public Officer to serve a notice on, or notify, a member or associate member pursuant to section 7, shall be deemed to have been sufficiently complied with if the notice or notification is either personally handed to the member or associate member or sent by post, addressed to the member or associate member at his, her or their last known address.
- (2) Where a notice or notification is sent by post, it will be deemed to have been received three working days after the date of postage, as advised by the Public Officer.
- (3) Any notice required to be delivered to the Public Officer pursuant to subsection 7(4) must be either personally handed to the Public Officer or deposited in the mail box at the office of the Council in Darwin.

PART IV – COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings

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- (1) All general meetings of the Council shall be either annual general meetings or special general meetings.

Special business

- (2) All business that is transacted at general meetings, other than the ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be special business.

Notification

- (3) The Public Officer shall at least 21 days and not more than 28 days before the date fixed for holding a general meeting:

- (a) cause to be inserted in a newspaper published daily in the Northern Territory a notice specifying the time and place for holding the meeting; and
- (b) cause to be inserted in a newsletter of the Council a notice specifying the time and place for holding the meeting and the nature of any special business to be transacted at the meeting.

Quorum

- (4) The quorum of a general meeting shall be not less than one quarter of the total number of members entitled to vote at the time of the meeting plus one third of the members of the Committee.

- (5) No business may be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled to vote is present during the time when the meeting is considering that item.
- Adjournment for lack of quorum***
- (6) If within one hour after the appointed time for commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be adjourned to the same time and place in the following week.
- (7) If within one hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a meeting adjourned pursuant to subsection (6) a quorum is not present, the meeting will lapse, save that:
- Committee to conduct certain business***
- (a) in the case of an annual general meeting, the business referred to in subsection 10(3) shall be conducted by the Committee at a special meeting held not later than 7 days after the adjourned annual general meeting referred to in sub-section (6); and
- (b) for the purposes of the special business referred to in sections 7 and 16:
- (i) at a special meeting held not later than 7 days after the adjourned general meeting referred to in subsection (6), the Committee shall exercise the powers of the general meeting and conduct the business as though it were a general meeting convened to transact that business; and
- (ii) any resolution will not be upheld unless it is passed by secret ballot and by special resolution of the Committee members present at the meeting.
- Power to adjourn***
- (8) The chair of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at a meeting adjourned pursuant to this subsection other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- (9) Where any adjournment is for more than 28 days, notice of the adjourned meeting is to be given pursuant to subsection (3).
- Chair***
- (10) At general meetings the President, or in his or her absence the Senior Vice-President, or in his or her absence the Vice President, or in their absence a financial member or associate member of the Council elected at the meeting, shall preside as Chair.
- Voting***
- (11) Only financial members and associate members are eligible to vote at a general meeting.
- (12) Prior to the commencement of a general meeting, members and corporate associate members shall notify the Public Officer in writing of the names of those persons who shall be authorised to vote on their behalf.
- (13) Subject to subsection 7(6), subsection 9(7)(b) and section 16, voting procedures shall be determined by the Chair.
- (14) Each member present at a general meeting is entitled to five votes and each associate member present is entitled to one vote, save that in the event of a tied vote the Chair may exercise a second vote.
- (15) A member or corporate associate member shall be deemed to be present at a

general meeting if their representative as notified to the Public Officer pursuant to subsection (12) is present.

- Annual general meetings** 10 (1) The Council shall hold an annual general meeting between 1 July and 30 September each year, at such time and place as determined by the Committee.
- Returning officer* (2) A returning officer and an alternate shall be appointed by the Committee prior to the holding of a general meeting.
- Ordinary business* (3) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be:
- (a) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting and of any general meeting held since that meeting;
 - (b) to receive reports from the Committee, Auditor and Treasurer concerning the transactions of the Council during the previous financial year;
 - (c) to elect the members of the Committee;
 - (d) to appoint an auditor, who is a qualified accountant and who is not a member of the Council; and any other honorary positions; and
 - (e) to fix the annual subscriptions payable by each category of members and associate members
- Special business* (4) An annual general meeting shall not transact any special business other than that arising pursuant to subsection 11(6).
- Special general meetings** 11 (1) The Committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting and nominate the special business to be transacted at that meeting and may nominate any special business to be transacted at an annual general meeting.
- (2) The Committee shall, on the requisition in writing signed by not less than one third of all financial members and associate members, convene a special general meeting.
- (3) A requisition for a special general meeting shall state the special business to be transacted at the meeting and shall be delivered to the Public Officer.
- (4) Where a requisition for a special general meeting is received pursuant to this section, the Public Officer shall forthwith notify the Committee and the Committee shall cause a special general meeting to be held within 90 days from the date of the delivery of the requisition.
- (5) Subject to sub-section (6), a special general meeting held pursuant to this section shall consider only the special business referred to in subsections (1) and (3).
- (6) Where an annual general meeting is held within the period referred to in subsection (4), any special business arising by virtue of this section shall be transacted at that annual general meeting.

PART V – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- The Executive Committee** 12 The affairs of the Council shall be managed by an Executive Committee, constituted by the following members:
- (a) The five Office Bearers of the Council, namely:
 - (i) a President;
 - (ii) a Senior Vice President;
 - (iii) a Vice President;
 - (iv) a Secretary;
 - (v) a Treasurer; and
 - (b) six other members, who shall be called Executive Members;
- all of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Council in each year and, subject to sections 14 and 16, shall hold office until the close of the next annual general meeting.
- Election of Committee** 13 (1) Any person who, at the time of nomination, is a financial member or associate member is eligible for election to the Committee.
- Past President** (2) The immediate past President shall be the Vice President, unless he or she is not available in which event the vice president will be nominated and elected in the same manner as other members of the Committee.
- Nominations** (3) Nominations of candidates for election to the Committee, shall:
 - (a) be made in writing and:
 - (i) in relation to the positions of Office Bearer, be signed by two members and be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate;
 - (ii) in relation to the positions of Executive Members, be signed by two members and/or associate members and be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate;
 - (b) state the position or positions for which the nomination is made; and
 - (c) be delivered to the Public Officer at least seven days prior to the annual general meeting.
- Candidate deemed elected** (4) If there is only one eligible nomination for any Office Bearer position, or six or less eligible nominations for the positions of Executive Members, the nominated candidates shall be deemed to be elected.
- Ballot** (5) If there is more than one eligible nomination for any position of Office Bearer, or more than six eligible nominations for the positions of Executive Members, a secret ballot of financial members and associate members shall be held in relation to that position.
- Nominations from floor** (6) If there is no eligible nomination for a position of Office Bearer, further nominations may be received at the annual general meeting, in which event subsections (4) and (5) shall apply.
- (7) If there are less than six eligible nominations for the positions of Executive Member, further nominations may be received at the annual general meeting for any position not filled pursuant to subsection (4), in which event subsections (4) and (5) shall apply to that remaining position.

<i>Where tie or no nomination</i>		(8) Where there is a tie in the election for a position a new election shall be held at any time within 60 days, at such time as is determined by the Committee. In the event of a further tie, the Committee shall deem one of the candidates to be elected.
		(9) Where there is no nomination for a position a new election shall be held at any time within 60 days, at such time as is determined by the Committee. Nominations shall be made in accordance with subsection (3) and the provisions of subsections (4) to (8) shall apply.
<i>Limitation on terms</i>		(10) An Office Bearer may not hold the same office for more than three consecutive years.
Vacation of Office	14	<p>The office of any member of the Committee or Public Officer becomes vacant if the member or Public Officer:</p> <p>(a) dies;</p> <p>(b) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of a law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors or compounds with his creditors;</p> <p>(c) becomes of unsound mind;</p> <p>(d) resigns his or her office by notice in writing addressed to the Public Officer;</p> <p>(e) ceases to be resident in the Northern Territory;</p> <p>(f) is removed pursuant to section 16;</p> <p>(g) fails, without leave granted by the Committee, to attend three consecutive meetings of the committee;</p> <p>(h) ceases to be a member of the Council.</p>
Casual vacancies	15	<p>(1) Should there be a casual vacancy in the position of President, the Senior Vice President shall become President, or in the event of his or her unavailability the Vice President, or in the event of their unavailability the Secretary, or in the event of their unavailability the Treasurer, shall become President.</p> <p>(2) In the event of any other casual vacancy on the Committee or in the position of Public Officer, the Committee shall appoint a replacement from among the financial members and associate members.</p>
Removal of Committee member	16	<p>(1) A member of the Committee or the Public Officer may be removed by special resolution passed at a general meeting of the Council convened pursuant to section 11, providing that the member of the Committee has first been given a reasonable opportunity to be heard at the meeting.</p> <p>(2) The members present and entitled to vote at the general meeting referred to in subsection (1) shall vote by secret ballot on the question of whether or not the member of the Committee or Public Officer should be removed.</p>
Committee Meetings	17	(1) The Committee shall meet at least once a month at such place and at such times as the Committee determines.
<i>Special meetings</i>		<p>(2) Special meetings of the Committee may be convened by the President or on the petition of four of its members.</p> <p>(3) Five days notice of any special meeting shall be given to the members of the Committee, specifying the general nature of the business to be transacted and</p>

no other business shall be transacted at such meeting.

Quorum

- (4) Any six members of the Committee constitute a quorum.
- (5) No business may be transacted unless a quorum is present and if a quorum is not present the meeting shall be reconvened at the same time and place in the following week.

Chair

- (6) At meetings of the Committee the President, or in his or her absence the Senior Vice-President, or in his or her absence the Vice President, or in their absence a member of the Committee elected at the meeting, shall preside as chair.

Voting

- (7) Subject to subsections 7(6) and 9(7)(b), questions arising at meetings of the Committee shall be determined on a show of hands, unless the Chair otherwise directs.
- (8) Each Committee member present at a Committee meeting is entitled to one vote, save that in the event of a tied vote the chair may exercise a second vote.

Temporary absence

- (9) In the event of the absence of a Committee member, the Committee may appoint a financial member or associate member of the Council to replace the Committee member for the period of his or her absence, on such terms as the Committee thinks fit.

Subcommittees 18

- (1) The Committee may at any time appoint a sub-committee which may be given the authority to deliberate, investigate, report and make recommendations to the Committee, but shall not have the authority to make determinations or carry out executive actions.

Power to co-opt

- (2) The Committee may co-opt any person, whether a member of the Council or not, as a member of a sub-committee, save that a person who is not a member of associate member of the Council shall have no voting rights at any meeting of the sub-committee.

Quorum

- (3) Three appointed members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum at a meeting of the sub-committee.

Powers of the Committee 19

- (1) The Committee shall control and manage the affairs and exercise the powers of the Council in accordance with the Constitution and taking into due account any recommendation or resolution forthcoming from a duly constituted general meeting.
- (2) The Committee may, subject to the Act and this Constitution, exercise all such powers and functions essential to the proper management of the business and affairs of Council other than those powers and functions which are required by this Constitution to be exercised at a general meeting.

Where inconsistency

- (3) In the event of any inconsistency between a resolution of the Committee and a resolution of a general meeting, the latter shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

President's power between meetings

- (4) Subject to any qualification made from time to time by the Committee, in cases of urgency the President may, between meetings of the Committee, authorise the expenditure of money or accept donations, in either case not exceeding \$200 in any one instance, or issue directions or advice connected with the management and activities of the Council, and shall report on all such matters at the following meeting of the Committee.

Appointment of Public Officer

(5) The Committee shall appoint a member of the Committee to be the Public Officer for the purposes of the *Associations Incorporation Act (NT)*

Keeping of records

20 The Secretary shall keep proper minutes of meetings at which he or she is present and faithfully keep all by-laws, records and other documents of the council, other than the records referred to in subsection 23(3), in such form and manner and at such place as the Committee may direct.

Disclosure of interests

- 21 (1) Members of the Committee shall not receive any remuneration by virtue of their membership of the Committee.
- (2) A member of the Committee or Public Officer who has an interest in any contract or arrangement made or proposed to be made with the Council shall disclose his or her interest at the first meeting of the Committee, at which the contract or arrangement is first taken into consideration, if the member's interest then exists, or, in any other case, at the first meeting of the Committee after the acquisition of the interest.
- (3) If a member of the Committee or a subcommittee or the Public Officer becomes interested in a contract or arrangement after it is made or entered into, that member or Public Officer shall disclose his or her interest at the first meeting of the committee after the member becomes so interested.
- (4) No member of the Committee shall vote as member of the Committee in respect of any contract, or employment in a position, or arrangement in which that member has an interest.

PART VI – FINANCES AND PROPERTY

Income and property

- 22 (1) Subject to this section, the income and property of the Council shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects and purposes of the Council and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, to any member of the Council.
- (2) No member of the Committee shall be appointed to any salaried office of the Council.

Accounts	23	(1)	True accounts shall be kept of all money received and expended by the Council, including the source of the money and the nature of the expenditure, and of the property, credits and liabilities of the Council.
<i>Right to inspect</i>		(2)	Subject to any reasonable restrictions as to time and manner of inspecting them prescribed by the Committee, the accounts referred to in sub-section (1) shall be open to the inspection of the members and associate members of the Council.
<i>Accounting records</i>		(3)	The Treasurer shall faithfully keep all accounting records of the council in such form and manner and at such place as the Committee may direct.
<i>Financial year</i>		(4)	The financial year of the Council shall be the period 1 July to 30 June.
Banking and finance	24	(1)	The Treasurer shall, on behalf of the Council, receive all money and issue receipts in respect of all money received.
<i>Bank accounts</i>		(2)	The Committee shall cause to be opened with such banks as the Committee selects bank accounts in the name of the Council, into which all moneys received shall be paid by the Treasurer as soon as possible after its receipt, save for such money which the Treasurer is authorised to hold pursuant to sub-section (3).
<i>Petty cash</i>		(3)	The Committee may authorise the Treasurer to hold petty cash in such amount and on such terms as the Committee determines.
<i>Cash payments</i>		(4)	Except with the authority of the Committee, no payment in excess of \$100 shall be paid in cash for any one item from the funds of the Council.
<i>Cheques</i>		(5)	Subject to subsection 19(4), no cheques shall be drawn on the Council's bank accounts except for the payment of expenditure that has been authorised by the Committee.
		(6)	All cheques shall be signed by any one of the President, Treasurer or Secretary plus one other Office Bearer.
Audits	25	(1)	The auditor of the Council shall be a qualified accountant appointed pursuant to subsections 9(7)(a) or 10(3).
		(2)	If a casual vacancy occurs in the office of auditor, the Committee may appoint a qualified accountant, who is not a member of the Council, as auditor and the person so appointed shall hold office until the next annual general meeting.
		(3)	Once at least in each financial year the accounts of the Council shall be examined by the auditor.
		(4)	The Treasurer shall direct the auditor to, and give him or her access to, all of the accounts, financial records and other documents of the Council.
		(5)	The auditor may require from any of the Office Bearers such information and explanations as may be necessary for the performance of his or her duties as auditor.
		(6)	The auditor shall certify as to the correctness of the accounts of the Council and shall submit a report to the next annual general meeting, including as to whether there has been compliance with this Part of the Constitution.

PART VII – MISCELLANEOUS

Seal of the council	26	The seal of the Council shall: <ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) be in the form of a rubber stamp, inscribed with the name <i>Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory Incorporated</i> encircling the word <i>Seal</i>;(b) be attested by the signatures of two Office Bearers on behalf of the Committee; and(c) shall remain in the custody of the Public Officer.
Amendment of the Constitution	27	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) This Constitution may be amended by special resolution at a general meeting.(2) Any proposed amendment of the constitution is special business for the purposes of subsection 9(2).(3) An amendment of the objects or purposes of the Council shall not take effect unless and until approved by the Registrar pursuant to the <i>Associations Incorporation Act (NT)</i>.(4) An amendment of provisions of this Constitution other than the objects and purposes of the Council, shall not take effect until the requirements of the <i>Associations Incorporation Act (NT)</i> in relation to filing have been complied with.
Transitional provisions	28	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) For the year 2000, the Council shall hold its annual general meeting between 1 October and 31 December, at such time and place as determined by the Committee.(2) For the 2000–2001 financial year, the financial year shall be from 1 October 2000 to 30 June 2001.
Dissolution of the Council	29	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) The Council shall be dissolved if the membership includes less than three multicultural organisations or upon the vote of a three-fourths majority at a general meeting.(2) In the event of the Council being wound up, any surplus assets remaining after payment of the Council’s liabilities shall be paid and applied by the Council, as resolved at a general meeting, to any fund, institution or authority which, itself, is exempt from income tax.