



CONSTITUTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY ZIONIST COUNCIL

NAME

1. The name of the organisation is the Australian Capital Territory Zionist Council (the Council).

ZIONIST PROGRAMME

2. The Council accepts the Jerusalem Program as laid down in the Constitution of the World Zionist Organisation (WZO).

JERUSALEM PROGRAM - 2004

Zionism, the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, brought about the establishment of the State of Israel, and views a Jewish, Zionist, democratic and secure State of Israel to be the expression of the common responsibility of the Jewish people for its continuity and future.

The foundations of Zionism are:

1. The unity of the Jewish people, its bond to its historic homeland Eretz Yisrael, and the centrality of the State of Israel and Jerusalem, its capital, in the life of the nation;
2. Aliyah to Israel from all countries and the effective integration of all immigrants into Israeli Society;
3. Strengthening Israel as a Jewish, Zionist and democratic state and shaping it as an exemplary society with a unique moral and spiritual character, marked by mutual respect for the multi-faceted Jewish people, rooted in the vision of the prophets, striving for peace and contributing to the betterment of the world;
4. Ensuring the future and the distinctiveness of the Jewish people by furthering Jewish, Hebrew and Zionist education, fostering spiritual and cultural values and teaching Hebrew as the national language;
5. Nurturing mutual Jewish responsibility, defending the rights of Jews as individuals and as a nation, representing the national Zionist interests of the Jewish people, and struggling against all manifestations of anti-Semitism;
6. Settling the country as an expression of practical Zionism.

OBJECTS

3. The objects of the Council are:

- (a) to uphold and foster the aims of Zionism which are:
 - (i) the unity of the Jewish people and the centrality of Israel in Jewish life
 - (ii) the ingathering of the Jewish people in its historic homeland Eretz Israel through Aliyah from all countries according to individual choice
 - (iii) the strengthening of the State of Israel which is based upon the prophetic vision of justice and peace
 - (iv) the preservation of the identity of the Jewish people through the fostering of Jewish and Hebrew education and of Jewish spiritual and cultural values; and
 - (v) the protection of Jewish rights everywhere
- (b) to foster encourage and support the Zionist Youth Movements in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT);
- (c) to support the fundraising activities of the National Funds in the ACT;
- (d) to support the Zionist movement and the Jewish Community of the ACT and region;
- (e) to contribute materials relating to Zionism and Judaica to public and private libraries in the ACT;
- (f) to activate as many members of the Jewish community as possible and members of Zionist organisations in particular to perform practical work in the Zionist movement in an honorary capacity;
- (g) to organise Jewry in the ACT for the abovementioned purposes; and
- (h) to do all things which are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the abovementioned objects.

STATUS

4. The Council is:

- (a) an unincorporated organisation authorised to act for and on behalf of the whole Zionist Movement in the implementation of the Zionist and Israel-related activity; and
- (b) the sole agent in the ACT of the Zionist Federation of Australia (the Federation) and bound by the Constitution of the Federation in that capacity; and
- (c) a not-for-profit organisation whose business will not be carried on for the purposes of profit or gain to its members. Any income however and wherever derived will be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Council. No portion of the income or property of the Council will be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to the members but nothing in this clause will prevent any payment for goods and/or services supplied to the Council in the ordinary course of business.

WINDING UP

5. If the Council is wound up and there remains any surplus assets of the Council after all of the Council's debts and liabilities have been discharged, the remaining surplus assets must be transferred to:
 - (a) institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Council and that prohibit the distribution of the assets to an extent at least as great as that imposed on the Council; or
 - (b) a fund, authority or institution that is charitable at law and gifts to which are deductible under item 1 of the table in section 30-15 of the Tax Act (Eligible Charity); or
 - (c) funds, charitable at law, that comply with the requirements of item 2 of the table in section 3015 of the Tax Act.
6. The identity of an Eligible Charity for the purposes of clause 5 will be determined by the committee at or before the time of winding up of the Council and (where applicable) approved by a Commissioner or, in default, will be determined by the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory.

POWERS

7. the Council has power to do all things that in the opinion of the Council are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of its objects.

DEFINITIONS

8. In this Constitution unless the context otherwise requires:
 - adult* means a Jewish person over the age of eighteen years.
 - a Zionist youth movement* means each of Betar, B'nai Akiva, Habonim-Dror, Hashomer Hatza'ir, Hineni, Netzer and Tzofim (Israeli scouts).
 - committee* means the office-bearers and up to three ordinary committee members.
 - Commissioner* means the Commissioner of Taxation.
 - executive* means the office-bearers.
 - financial year* means the year ending on 30 June.
 - general meeting* includes annual general meeting.
 - Jewish Organisation* means a Jewish organisation having not less than seventy-five adult members.
 - member* means a member, however described, of the Council.
 - month* means calendar month.
 - ordinary committee member* means a member of the committee who is not an office-bearer of the Council.
 - president* means the person holding office under this Constitution as president of the Council.
 - secretary/treasurer* means the person holding office under this Constitution as secretary/treasurer of the Council.
 - Tax Act* means the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

the National Funds means *Keren Hayesod – United Israel Appeal* and *Keren Kayemeth L'Israel – JNF*.

World Zionist Union means a Zionist body that represents a special ideological point of view within the WZO and has branches in at least five countries and is represented by a WZO Congress Grouping.

Zionist Organisation (other than a branch of a National Fund) means an organisation that has formally adopted the Jerusalem Program and the aims for Zionism and formally accepted the authority of the Council in Zionist matters.

9. In this Constitution words importing the masculine gender also import the feminine gender and vice-versa. Words importing the singular number also import the plural number and vice-versa. Section headings must not be taken into account in the interpretation of this Constitution.

MEMBERSHIP

10. A person is qualified to be a member of the Council if the person:
- (a) is a person who supports Zionism; and
 - (b) endorses the Jerusalem Program; and
 - (c) upholds and fosters the aims of Zionism; and
 - (d) nominates to be a member in writing to the secretary/treasurer of the Council and the nomination for membership of the Council is approved by the executive of the Council.
11. As soon as is practicable after receiving a nomination for membership, the secretary/treasurer must refer the nomination to the executive which must decide whether to approve or to reject the nomination.
12. If the executive decides to approve a nomination for membership the secretary/treasurer must as soon as practicable after that decision notify the nominee of that approval.
13. The secretary/treasurer will enter the nominee's name in the register of members and on the name being so entered the nominee becomes a member of the Council.
14. The committee may at any time require any member to furnish information that he or she has fulfilled the conditions of membership applicable to the member.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP

15. A member is entitled to resign from membership of the Council at any time. If a person resigns the person ceases to be a member and the secretary/treasurer must make an appropriate entry in the register of members recording the date the member ceased to be a member.

FEES

16. Membership fees are set by the committee and approved at an Annual General Meeting.

CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP

17. If the committee is of the opinion that a member has persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Council the committee may, by resolution,

expel the member from the Council in accordance with the rules of natural justice and procedural fairness and the secretary/treasurer will record in the register of members the date on which the member ceased to be a member.

18. The power conferred by clause 17 is not exercisable by resolution unless fourteen days' notice in writing has been given to the member and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of persons present and voting at a duly convened meeting of the committee.

POWERS OF COMMITTEE

19. The committee controls and manages the affairs of the Council, exercises all functions that may be exercised by the Council, and has power to perform all acts and do all things that appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the Council.

CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

20. The committee consists of a president, a secretary/treasurer (the office-bearers), and up to three ordinary committee members.
21. If there is a vacancy in the membership of the committee, the committee may appoint a member of the Council to fill the vacancy for the life of the committee.
22. Persons so appointed hold office for one calendar year after the date of the appointment.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

23. Nominations for election as office-bearers of the Council or as ordinary committee member must be made in writing signed by two members of the Council and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the nomination form) and must be given to the secretary/treasurer of the Council not less than seven days before the date fixed for a general meeting at which the election is to take place.
24. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations may be received at the annual general meeting.
25. A person is not eligible to simultaneously hold more than one position on the committee.

SECRETARY/TREASURER

26. The secretary/treasurer of the Council must notify the Council of his or her address as soon as practicable after being appointed as secretary.
27. The secretary/treasurer of the Council must keep minutes of:
 - (a) all elections and appointments of office-bearers and ordinary committee members; and
 - (b) the names of members of the committee present at a committee meeting or a general meeting; and
 - (c) all proceedings at committee meetings and general meetings. Minutes of proceedings at a meeting must be signed by the person presiding at the meeting or by the person presiding at the next succeeding meeting.

28. The secretary/treasurer of the Council must collect and receive all amounts owing to the Council, make all payments authorised by the Council, and keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the Council with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the Council.

VACANCIES ON COMMITTEE

29. For this Constitution, a vacancy in the office of a member of the committee happens if the member:
- (a) dies; or
 - (b) ceases to be a member of the Council; or
 - (c) resigns the office; or
 - (d) is removed from office under section 17 (Removal of committee members); or
 - (e) becomes bankrupt or personally insolvent; or
 - (f) suffers from mental or physical incapacity; or
 - (g) is absent without the consent of the committee from all meetings of the committee held during a period of six months.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND QUORUM

30. The committee must meet at least three times in each calendar year at the place and time that the committee may decide. Additional meetings of the committee may be called by any member of the committee. Oral or written notice of a meeting of the committee must be given by the secretary/treasurer to each member of the committee at least 48 hours (or any other period that may be unanimously agreed on by the members of the committee) before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.
31. Notice of a meeting given under clause 30 must specify the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting and no business other than that business may be transacted at the meeting, except business that the committee members present at the meeting unanimously agree to treat as urgent business.
32. Any three members of the committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the committee.
33. No business may be transacted by the committee unless a quorum is present and, if within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting stands adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting is dissolved.
34. At meetings of the committee the president presides or, if the president is absent, one of the remaining members of the committee may be chosen by the members present to preside.

VOTING AND DECISIONS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

35. Questions arising at a meeting of the committee are decided by a majority of the votes of members of the committee present at the meeting.
36. Each member present at a meeting of the committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote but, if the votes on any question are equal, the

person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.

HOLDING OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

37. Except for the first annual general meeting of the Council, the Council will, at least once in each calendar year and within five months after the end of each financial year, call an annual general meeting of its members.
38. The Council must hold its first annual general meeting within 18 months after the Council is constituted.

CALLING OF AND BUSINESS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

39. The annual general meeting of the Council must be called on the date and at the place and time that the committee considers appropriate.
40. In addition to any other business that may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting is:
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the last annual general meeting and of any general meeting held since that meeting; and
 - (b) to receive from the committee reports on the activities of the association during the last financial year; and
 - (c) to elect members of the committee, including office-bearers.
41. An annual general meeting must be called and be conducted in accordance with the provisions in this Constitution for general meetings.

CALLING OF GENERAL MEETINGS

42. The committee may, whenever it considers appropriate, call a general meeting of the Council.
43. The committee must, on the requisition in writing of not less than 20% of the total number of members, call a general meeting of the Council. A requisition of members for a general meeting must state the purpose or purposes of the meeting, be signed by the members making the requisition, and be lodged with the secretary/treasurer.
44. If the committee fails to call a general meeting within one month after the date when a requisition of members for the meeting is lodged with the secretary/treasurer, any one or more of the members who made the requisition may call a general meeting to be held not later than three months after that date.
45. A general meeting called by a member or members mentioned in clause 44 must be called as nearly as is practicable in the same way as general meetings are called by the committee and any member who thereby incurs expense is entitled to be reimbursed by the Council for any reasonable expense so incurred.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

46. The secretary/treasurer must, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, send a notice to each member on the register of members specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.

47. No business other than that specified in the notice calling a general meeting may be transacted at the meeting.
48. A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting may give written notice of that business to the secretary/treasurer who must include that business in the next notice calling a general meeting given after receipt of the notice from the member.

PROCEDURE AND QUORUM AT GENERAL MEETINGS

49. No item of business may be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under these rules to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.
50. Five members present in person (who are entitled under these rules to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.
51. If within 30 minutes after the appointed time for the start of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting if called on the requisition of members is dissolved and in any other case stands adjourned to the same day in the following week at the same time and (unless another place is specified at the time of adjournment by the person presiding at the meeting or communicated by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.
52. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for the start of the meeting, the members present (being not less than three) constitute a quorum.

PRESIDING MEMBER AT GENERAL MEETINGS

53. The president presides at each general meeting of the Council.
54. If the president is absent from a general meeting, the members present must elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.

DECISIONS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

55. A question arising at a general meeting of the Council is to be decided on a show of hands and, unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded, a declaration by the person presiding that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the Council, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.

VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

56. Subject to clause 58, on any question arising at a general meeting of the Council a member has one vote only.
57. All votes must be given personally
58. If the votes on a question at a general meeting are equal, the person presiding is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.

59. A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the Council unless any money due and payable by the member to the Council has been paid.

60. ALTERATION OF OBJECTS

The objects of the Council mentioned in this Constitution may not be altered in a way that is inconsistent with the Zionist Programme as laid down in the Constitution of WZO.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

61. This Constitution may not be altered except by special resolution at a general meeting of which due notice has been given in accordance with this Constitution providing the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of the resolution on a show of hands or by poll is at least 75%.

ADHERENCE TO KASHRUT

62. All functions of or held under the auspices of the Council must be conducted so as not to contravene the laws of Kashrut, Shabbat and Yom Tov.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF the Council

NOMINEE

I,
(full name of applicant)

of
(address)

.....
(occupation)

apply to become a member of the Council. If I am admitted as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Council for the time being in force.

Pledge:

- (a) I am a Jewish person who supports Zionism; and
- (b) I endorse the Jerusalem Program; and
- (c) I will uphold and foster the aims of Zionism.

.....
(Signature of applicant)

Date

PROPOSER

I,
(full name)

a member of the Council, nominate the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the Council.

.....
(Signature of proposer)

Date

SECONDER

I,
(full name)

a member of the Council, second the nomination of the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the Council.

.....
(Signature of seconder)

Date