

FEDERATION OF CYPRUS COMMUNITIES OF AUSTRALIA AND NZ
ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΩΝ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΩΝ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΝΖ



CONSTITUTION

THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE FEDERATION OF CYPRUS COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONS
OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Rule 1: ESTABLISHMENT – HEAD OFFICE – MEMBERS

1.1 The Federation of Cyprus Communities of Australia was established on 29th March 1970, whose official name as of the 24th of June 2000 is “Federation of Cyprus Communities and Organizations of Australia and New Zealand”.

1.2 The Head Office of the Federation shall be in the State where the Secretary is residing.

1.3 Member of the Federation shall be the following Communities and Organizations:

- Cyprus Community of Sydney and New South Wales;
- Cyprus Community of Melbourne and Victoria;
- Cyprus Community of Adelaide and South Australia;
- Cyprus Community of Brisbane and Queensland;
- Cyprus Community of Perth and Western Australia;
- Cyprus Community of Canberra and the ACT and Districts;
- Cyprus Community of Darwin and the Northern Territory;
- Cyprus Community of Wollongong;
- Cyprus Community of “Apostolos Andreas” of Sunshine Victoria;
- Community of Cypriots of the Northern Suburbs of Melbourne;
- Cyprus Community of Wellington and New Zealand;
- Australia Cyprian Social and Sports Organization/”Pankyrios”;
- Cyprus Hellene Club;

And all other later admitted members.

1.4 Any Cypriot organisation wishing to become a member of the federation must lodge with the Permanent Secretary of the following:-

(a). An application for membership duly signed by the President and Secretary of that organization;

(b). In the Event of an organization being resident in Australia, a letter from the Community of the State in which the organisation is based and also a letter from the closest existing member of the Federation confirming neither existing member objects to the organization’s membership application;

(c) A duly certified copy of the organization’s Constitution;

(d) Certified accounts as to the financial standing of the organisation;

(e) A list of its current members , their address and ethnology.

- 1.5 Upon receipt of an application for membership together with the other documents referred to in 1.4, the Permanent Secretary shall advise all members of the Executive and place on the agenda of the next meeting of the Federation, the issue of the admission to membership of the applicant. The Permanent Secretary must also do any investigations he may deem necessary so as to report at the time of the discussion of the membership application the standing and composition of the applicant and any other matter he may consider relevant
- 1.6 Any vote for the admission to membership of the Federation must be approved by at last two thirds of the members of the Federation.

Rule 2. AIMS OF THE FEDERATION

- 2.1 The aims of the Federation are the following; The fostering of closer relations and cultivation of a spirit of co-operation in all respect between the Cyprus Communities, the objective being the promotion and the solution of issues of interest, the development and promotion and the solution of issues of interest, the development and promotion of the cultural heritage of Cyprus within the Australian social structure, and the active participation in general in the life and activity of the Cyprus and Australian societies.
- 2.2 The development of relations with other Cyprus Communities from overseas.
- 2.3 The promotion of educational, social, cultural, financial and trade relations between Cyprus and Australia as well as other countries, and co-operation with other Organisations for successful solution of common problems.
- 2.4. The participation and care, the undertaking of initiatives for the national issues, the preservation of ties with the national centre (Cyprus), the preservation of the language and other cultural elements, the love and care of the youth, the women and the aged.
- 2.5 To help and assist members of the Federation on issues or problems which may be faced by their members or other Cypriots.
- 2.6 The Creation of closer ties between Cyprus and Australia, and with the Cyprus Government and its representatives.

RULE 3. FINANCIAL SOURCES OF THE FEDERATION

- 3.1 The financial resources of the Federation come from annual subscription fees paid by the members of the Federation.
- 3.2 The different activities organised by the Federation
- 3.3 Governments grants.
- 3.4 Donations

3.5 The annual subscription fee of the Communities to the Federation will be based on the number of votes each Community is entitled to. The fee will be set from time to time by the members of the Federation.

3.6 Deleted.

Rule 4 REGISTER OF MEMBERS

4.1 The Secretary shall keep and maintain a register of members in which shall be entered the full name, address and date of entry of the name of each member and the register shall be available for inspection by members at the address of the public officer.

Rule 5 RESIGNATION/EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

5.1 Any member, Community or Organisation wishing to resign from the Federation may do so provided they show a written statement showing a majority vote to that intent from both its Executive Committee and its General Meeting. Upon the acceptance of the resignation that member shall cease to be a member. Fees or subscriptions already paid are not refundable.

5.2 A member is expelled or suspended on terms to be decided at that meeting, when it is decided by two thirds of the members of the Federation voting and present at a properly convened meeting of the Federation and after having received at least one months notice of the meeting at which the expulsion or suspension is to be determined.

Rule 6 RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

6.1 Each Cyprus Community member of the Federation shall preserve its own constitutional, administrative and financial identity, independence and autonomy.

6.2 The members of the Federation are all equal one with another. They have the same rights and benefits apart from voting rights as outlined in Rule 10.2

6.3 The members have the same obligations. They obey the resolution of the Federation, and act according to its aims. If their activities conflict with the aims of the Federation, there is then a reason for expulsion. On the other hand, the members are responsible for their financial obligations.

Rule 7 ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEDERATION

7.1 The administration of the Federation is based on the Constitution, the law of Australia and the resolutions of the General Meetings of the Federation

RULE 8 EXECUTIVE

8.1 The Executive of the Federation shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and Youth Executive Delegate. It is desirable but not mandatory for the President, Vice President and Secretary not to reside the same State. The Executive shall serve for a 2 year term and be elected at each alternate Annual General Meeting.

8.2 All members of the Executive shall have one vote in respect to decisions of the Executive and in the event that a member of the Executive dies or resigns then until his office is duly filled, the vacant position of the Executive shall be filled by the President of the previous Executive member's community or organization, or that President's nominee except the President's position which will be filled by the Vice President, if he/she has already served 2 terms (4 years) consecutively as President, unless he/she is elected with 2/3 or more votes cast being in favour of that person.

8.3 The Executive shall be empowered to make decisions in the interest of the Federation when required to and between meeting of the Federation when it is not practical or convenient to convene a meeting of the members of the Federation.

8.4 The decisions of the Executive shall be minuted by the Secretary and upon a vote of the Executive each member of the Executive shall be entitled to one vote.

8.5 The Secretary shall at next meeting of the Federation advise all members of the decisions of the Executive and seek ratification of the Executives actions. In the event that ratification is not given, the Executives, action shall not be regarded as actions of the Federation.

8.6 The members of the Executive shall be elected by the members at each annual general meeting. Nominations for positions on the Executive may be received from the floor of the meeting provided that at least one member of the Executives shall be a member other than the Community of Sydney and New South Wales and/or the Community of Melbourne and Victoria. Nominations for the positions on the Executive must be endorsed by the President of the Nominees Committee.

Rule 9 PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

9.1 Deleted.

Rule 10 MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

10.1 The Annual General meeting of the Federation is held once a year in the State decided upon during the previous Annual General Meeting.

10.2 The present members of the Federation shall have the following votes at any meeting of the Federation:-

Cyprus Community of Sydney and New South Wales;	-5
Cyprus Community of Melbourne and Victoria;	-4
Cyprus Community of Adelaide and South Australia;	-3
Cyprus Community of Brisbane and Queensland;	-3
Cyprus Community of Perth and Western Australia;	-2
Cyprus Community of Canberra and the ACT and Districts;	-2
Cyprus Community of Darwin and the Northern Territory;	-2
Cyprus Community of Wollongong;	-2
Cyprus Community of "Apostolos Andreas" of Sunshine Victoria;	-2
Community of Cypriots of the Northern Suburbs of Melbourne;	-2
Cyprus Community of Wellington and New Zealand;	-2
Australia Cyprian Social and Sports Organization/"Pankyprios";	-2
Cyprus Hellene Club;	-2

10.3 The number of votes any new member will be entitled to, will be determined by the Federation at the same time as determining the acceptance of the application for membership.

10.4 Each member may have representatives equal to their voting entitlement at every meeting of the Federation

10.5 Members will be represented at the Federation's meeting by its President and Secretary or any other duly authorized official and each voting delegate shall be entitled to an unfettered vote upon any poll provided that if a member has less voting delegates than its voting entitlement, the unused votes will accrue to the President of that member or in his absence, his nominee in writing provided such nominee shall only represent his community/organisation, otherwise the unused votes shall lapse. Voting will be by the secret ballot if required by 3 members or by the President.

10.6 Notices for the Annual General Meeting must be sent by post one month before the date of the meeting. The notice must detail the following:-

- a) The venue, date and time of the meeting;
- b) The agenda of the meeting and a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting if these have not previously been provided to members

10.7 A quorum for the transaction of an Annual General Meeting shall be half of the total membership of the Federation's membership plus one

10.8 Notices for any meeting may be given if necessary by telephone to the President or Secretary of each member at least fifteen days before the due date for the meeting.

10.9 Extraordinary Meetings may be called by the President or after a written request to the Secretary by at least one-third of the membership of the Federation.

10.10 The Secretary is responsible for the convening of Annual General or Extraordinary Meetings and of forwarding to members the requisite notices.

Rule 11 GENERAL PROVISIONS

11.1 The President presides at meeting of the Executive and the Federation and represents the Executive and the Federation at formal occasions and functions.

11.2 If the President is unable to preside over a meeting, the Vice President shall substitute for the President.

11.3 The Secretary is responsible for the keeping of the minutes of all meetings and for the correspondence of both the Federation and the Executive.

11.4 The Treasurer is responsible for the keeping of financial accounts, preparation of the budget plan and for any suggestions to the Executive as to methods for obtaining financial resources. The Treasurer shall keep the Executive aware of the financial position of the Federation by the preparation of relevant statements every twelve months, sending those statements to the members of the Executive. At each Annual General Meeting he shall present the financial accounts of the Federation and where required by law such accounts shall be certified by the auditor and the accountants of the Federation.

11.5 All member of the Federation must abide by its resolutions and the resolutions of the Executive subsequent duly ratified.

11.6 The Federation can subject to Rule 5.2 expel any member which refuses to abide by its resolution and/or behaves in such a way which opposes the general or special aims of the Federation.

11.7 Deleted.

11.8 The Executive has the right to point out omissions or damaging activities or systematic inactivity or indifference of a member Community and the Executive shall request that member Community that reconstructive measures be taken by the member Community.

11.9 Deleted.

Rule 12 FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

12.1 The Federation shall appoint the auditor or auditors of its term of office.

12.2 The Treasurer shall deposit in a bank chosen by the Executive, all moneys which are received by him no later than three days after the receipt of the said moneys.

Rule 13 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEES

13.1 Each State Federation shall pay as a way of subscription, \$200 per vote entitlement. For example, if a State Federation has 3 votes, than their annual subscription will be \$600.00. Breakdown of this for each member is a State matter, however, as a guide, the Federation suggests that this is shared by each State Federation member according to the votes they are entitles at State Federation level.

13.2 Only paid up members are entitled to vote at any meeting.

Rule 14 COMMON SEAL

14.1 Custody of the common seal of the Federation is with the Secretary.

14.2 The common seal shall not be affixed to any document except with the authority of the Executive.

14.3 The affixing of the common seal shall be attested by the signatures of two of the members of the Executive.

Rule 15 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

15.1 Amendments to the constitution need to be voted by 75% of members of the Federation, which must include the States of Victoria and N.S.W.

Rule 16 RESIGNATION/EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

16.1 Any member wishing to resign from the Federation, need to provide the Federation with a written statement showing a majority vote to that intent from its Executive Committee. Upon acceptance of the resignation the member shall cease to be a member of the Federation. Any subscriptions or other fees paid regardless of when, are not refundable.

16.2 Any member that has resigned the Federation, will need to follow the same procedures as any new member for joining the federation again.

16.3 A member may be suspended or expelled, according to the judgment of the members of the Federation, when it is decided by 75% of the present members at the general meeting, after notifying the member at least one month in advance from the date of the general meeting. Reasons for expulsion are serious misconduct and acting against the interests or aims and objectives of the Federation.

16.2 The Federation will co-operate with other Community Organisations and Federations, always in accordance with its aims and may undertake initiatives in issues concerning Cyprus, Greece and Australia and/or issued concerning Migrants in general.

16.3 **MEMBER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF OVERSEAS CYPRIOTS**
THE Federation, as a member of World Federation of Overseas Cypriots, will continue its participation and energetic activity in all aspects and for the aims for which the World Federation has been established.

16.4 The Federation must contribute financial and other assistance to the World Federation.

16.5 a) The Federation may be resolution grant observer status to any non-member organisation.

b) Observer organisations may attend Federation meetings but shall not be entitled to vote upon any resolutions and may have their observer status removed by resolution of the Federation. The observer representatives may have whatever restrictions imposed, as the Federation by resolution determines.

RULE 17 WINDING UP AND DISSOLUTION OF THE FEDERATION

17.1 The Federation is dissolved if and when:

(a). It is found guilty of a serious criminal offence; or

(b) A resolution to dissolve the Federation is passed and $\frac{3}{4}$ or more of the votes cast are in favour of the resolution.

17.2 In the event of the dissolution of the Federation, after the full payment of debts and liabilities, any property remaining should be donated to:-

- (1) The Thalassaemia Foundation of Australia, and
- (2) The Anti – Cancer Council of Australia.