

# **Constitution of The Arts Party**

April 2018 – Revision 2

Contact The Arts Party:

PO Box 114, Kingsford  
NSW, Australia, 2032  
0404 116 310

## 1. Definitions

**MEMBERS:** are "natural persons" who are registered members of The Arts Party of Australia. Members do not include organisations, corporations or unincorporated associations.

**NATIONAL TRUST:** the legal guardians of The Arts Party as established by AEC requirements and this constitution.

**THE COMMITTEE:** The members appointed to operational leadership of the Arts Party, responsible for ongoing decisions and activities.

**NATURAL PERSONS:** a single individual as opposed to a group or organisation.

**POLITICAL PARTY:** any organisation, or corporate body registered, deregistered, or seeking registration, as a political party with the Australian Electoral Commissions or State Electoral Commissions or both.

**STATE:** a reference to 'state and territory'.

**TAP:** and abbreviation for The Arts Party

**THE ARTS PARTY:** the national Arts Party that is registered under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Cth)* and constituted by this document.

## 2. Introduction to the Constitution

### 2.1. Why The Arts Party?

The Arts are the most accessible forms of human creativity, for both creators and consumers. As a result, they form an integral glue to our social lives and communities. The Arts are the heartbeat of a healthy human society.

The Arts create a language that cuts across social, economic, cultural, racial and economic barriers- and helps people from different sides of these divisions to come together and share their humanity in a way that would otherwise not be possible. The Arts build community. Yet funding, respect and government support for the Arts is at an all-time low.

Creativity is the basis of all human progress and constantly evolves our communities, through social, technological and philosophical development. Yet while human creativity is essential to progress, it is also surprisingly overlooked in our schools and workplaces. The obvious reason the innovation agenda struggles in Australia is because the creative agenda, the fuel of innovation, is not properly supported and recognised.

We believe that human beings are the greatest resource on this planet and that

the purpose of all human leadership should be to help those they represent, to be the best version of themselves they can, to then contribute towards general progress for the good of humanity and the planet.

The Arts Party exists to address this imbalance. We are advocates for creativity, culture, education and artistic access, to the betterment of all Australians today, through political means.

## **2.2. Central principles and objectives**

The Arts Party was formed to introduce a new voice into Australian politics, a voice inspired by arts thinking, to promote and encourage the importance of the arts, education, culture and creativity in the lives of all Australians.

Arts thinking is about recognising the importance of inclusion, diversity of thought, tolerance, equality and the possibility for positive change in Australia. In practice this means working together for win-win solutions that help improve the lives of as many Australians as possible.

We want to introduce arts thinking and creative action into Australian parliaments and promote creative, scientific and evidence based ideas for improving the lives of all. The future of Australia will be decided by the quality of our ideas and how prepared we are to make them real. We want arts thinking to be a voice in the conversation that is creating our future.

## **2.3. Self-fulfillment and Australian creativity**

The Arts Party aims to maximise the opportunities for self-expression that art and creativity bring to practitioners by designing and promoting policies that encourage the growth of the artistic and creative industries within Australia.

Everyone is innately creative. Human creativity is at the root of all humanity's achievements. Creativity in every form promotes a happier life. All forms of the arts enrich the lives of those who are practitioners of the arts, those who are consumers of the arts and the lives of all Australians. This is the future we want to encourage - prosperity, community, happiness.

## **2.4. Wealth creation**

The Arts Party aims to improve the lives of all Australians by generating wealth through the expansion of the artistic and creative industries and creativity in general.

Australia's ability to compete in industry, in business and in commerce is contained in our ability to come up with innovative solutions, and implement them in creative ways. Finding and implementing creative solutions doesn't happen accidentally.

All forms of art and creative activity, including music, the performing arts, film, television, radio, advertising, games and interactive content, writing, publishing, architecture, design, and the visual arts, have the potential to create economic wealth, cultural depth and jobs, but require recognition and civic support to flourish.

## **2.5. Education**

Education is not a selfish activity, rather a boon to society in general. An accessible education system that encourages broad thinking, creative approaches to problem solving and fosters the ability of all students to access those parts of them that will help discover and develop the best ideas, is essential in Australia's pursuit to stay profitable, competitive and innovative in a globalised market.

The Arts Party aims to encourage lifelong learning for every Australian; a way to help all Australians think smarter today and prepare for the the fast changing world of tomorrow.

## **2.6. Culture - past, present and future**

The Arts Party wishes to illuminate and highlight the central role that Arts and culture plays in giving every Australian a sense of identity. Stretching from the first indigenous people of Australia, through to those becoming the newest Australians everyday - access to, appreciation of and involvement in the Arts and our many cultures enriches the lives of every Australian.

Australian stories matter and we will support policies that encourage growth in Australian-made content, and policies that encourage quality and excellence in all artistic and creative works, produced by Australians for Australians.

## **2.7. Equality and Openness**

The Arts Party exists to find, foster and encourage the open, inclusive and innovative culture in which the arts flourish. We believe this is an integral part of Australia's ability to grow and compete in the modern world - and maintain Australia's position in the world as one of the most prosperous, enjoyable and exciting places to live. We are proudly multicultural, embracing diversity and equality.

# **3. General**

## **3.1. Name**

3.1.1. The name of the party shall be The Arts Party.

3.1.2. The abbreviation shall be TAP.

## **3.2. Head Office**

The Head Office of The Arts Party (hereafter known as TAP) shall be a place determined by the National Trust and registered with the AEC.

## **3.3. Objectives**

The fundamental objectives of TAP are:

3.3.1. to promote social, economic and political change in accordance with the principles of the party outlined above and as identified by the committee.

- 3.3.2. to seek the election or appointment to public office in State, Territory and Commonwealth Parliaments, people who are committed to TAP's constitution, principles, policies and objectives.
- 3.3.3. to be a registered political party pursuant to the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (Cth)*.
- 3.3.4. to encourage other political parties in Australia to adopt policies and principles outlined in this constitution and in other documents released by the party.
- 3.3.5. to promote and assist other associations and organisations and persons in working for the objectives of the party.
- 3.3.6. to promote the development of and participate and communicate with the artistic and creative industries in Australia and globally.
- 3.3.7. to establish policies that will help the government and non-government sectors across Australia to plan and support a more efficient and effective cultural infrastructure.
- 3.3.8. to encourage learning and education. To raise the academic achievement of Australian students. To encourage Australians in developing higher order thinking skills through the application of critical and creative thinking in our schools, universities and tafes. To use the opportunities afforded by modern technologies to propel the Australia educational system into the future. To prepare Australian students for the future, encouraging new, inventive and creative ways to solve problems.
- 3.3.9. to bring the inclusive, progressive and creative culture of the arts industries to all Australians.

## 4. Organisation of the party

### 4.1. Composition of the Party

The party comprises individual members who have personally registered as members on the website, or if unable to do so, have explicitly asked the committee or national executive to do this on their behalf.

### 4.2. Constitution and Rules

- 4.2.1. This Constitution and all rules made under it bind all members of the party.
- 4.2.2. All members must uphold the objectives of The Arts Party.
- 4.2.3. Any interpretation of the Constitution, rules, platform, pledge or policy decisions will be made by the Committee.

## 5. Membership

- 5.1. Natural persons will be welcomed as members of the party provided that they agree to this Constitution and abide by its member rules;
- 5.2. The current value of membership fees:
  - 5.3.1. shall be determined by the Committee;
  - 5.3.2. may change from time to time;
  - 5.3.3. may be offered in packages that allow persons to purchase membership for periods of multiple years or be offered free until cancellation.
  - 5.3.4. will be specified on The Arts Party's official website;
- 5.3. Membership fees to the state branches of The Arts Party will be decided by the relevant state committee.
  - 5.4.1. In order to support state registrations, members accept their federal membership can also be used to help establish a state party in their registered state, which upon successful registration, they will automatically become a member of.
  - 5.4.2. State Memberships will endow no voting rights upon the member in any vote held explicitly for members of the Federal Arts Party.
- 5.4. A member of the party may resign at any time by contacting The Arts Party Membership Office, using the method specified on the contact page of The Arts Party's official website.
- 5.5. Any member of the party not on the National Executive or the Committee may have their membership revoked by The Arts Party at any time, should the Committee agree by way of a majority vote that the member has failed to uphold any of the responsibilities of members, as outlined in this document, or that the member has brought or will bring the party into disrepute by continuing to be a member.

## 6. Committee Powers

The Committee of The Arts Party shall have the following powers:

- 6.1. to purchase, take on, lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real and personal estate which may be deemed necessary or convenient for any of the purposes of The Arts Party;
- 6.2. to take such steps by personal or written appeals, public meetings or otherwise, as may from time to time be deemed expedient for the purposes of procuring contributions to the funds of The Arts Party in the form of donations, annual subscriptions or otherwise;
- 6.3. to invest any moneys of The Arts Party not immediately required for any of its objectives, in such a manner as may be desired;
- 6.4. to enter into arrangements for joint working or cooperation with any

- Party, association, society or body of persons whether incorporated or not carrying on work or having objectives similar to the work and objectives of The Arts Party;
- 6.5. to produce and publish and to distribute such books, newspapers, pamphlets, periodicals and other literature as may seem deemed appropriate to promote the objectives of The Arts Party;
  - 6.6. to receive and accept donations, subscriptions and endowments or money or of any form of property;
  - 6.7. to improve, manage, develop, sell, exchange, lease or otherwise turn to account all or any of the property of The Arts Party;
  - 6.8. to engage and dismiss all paid officers and employees of The Arts Party and fix their remuneration and terms of employment;
  - 6.9. to grant and pay such pensions, salaries, gratuities or other sums in recognition of service to any person as may be approved by the National Executive of The Arts Party;
  - 6.10. to appoint a trustee or trustees personal or corporate to receive and hold any property on behalf of The Arts Party and to allow any such property to remain outstanding in such trustee or trustees;
  - 6.11. to do all such acts and things as may be conducive to the furtherance of any of the objectives of The Arts Party;
  - 6.12. The committee is formed to carry out the objectives set forth in the Constitution and not for the purpose of trading or securing pecuniary profit for the members;
  - 6.13. The income and property of The Arts Party shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives of The Arts Party as set forth in this Constitution. No portion of income or property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to the members of The Arts Party.
  - 6.14. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration whether by way of salary or honoraria or otherwise in return for any service actually rendered to or on behalf of The Arts Party, to any officers or employees of The Arts Party or to any member thereof or other person.
  - 6.15. If upon winding up or dissolution of The Arts Party there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of The Arts Party but shall be given or transferred to some charity, company, association, society or other body having objectives similar or in part similar to the objectives of The Arts Party. Such company, association, society or other body shall be determined by the National Executive of The Arts Party at or before the time of dissolution

### **Committee Decision Making**

- 6.16. Decisions regarding the future strategy and direction of The Arts Party

are the ongoing responsibility of the Committee. Each committee member has specific responsibilities on which they are expected to report back at each meeting.

- 6.17. The party leader and secretary have the right to make minor operational decisions in consultation with other committee and general members.
- 6.18. Major (expensive, constitutional, policy) resolutions should occur at scheduled committee meetings. These meetings may be in person or online.
- 6.19. In order for resolutions to be passed, a quorum of 50% of committee members must be present. All decisions must be conveyed to all committee members as soon as possible after the meeting.

### **Election of Committee Officers**

- 6.20. The committee of the Arts Party shall be refreshed at an Annual General Meeting each calendar year.
- 6.21. The AGM must be announced to all current members at least 2 weeks prior.
- 6.22. All current members of the Arts Party have the opportunity to nominate themselves for any committee role.
- 6.23. All current members have the right to attend the AGM and vote on candidates for all roles.
- 6.24. All members also have the ability to proxy their vote to any other current member or the current party leader, so that their voting preferences can be expressed in their absence.
- 6.25. The required roles for the committee are Leader, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 6.26. Other committee roles shall be decided by the committee as deemed appropriate and also offered to the membership for nomination and voting at the AGM following their creation.
- 6.27. Roles deemed unneeded by the Committee may be removed by majority decision.
- 6.28. The committee will accept a representative from all registered state parties.

## **7. The National Trust**

The National Trust shall consist of:

- 7.1. The AEC registered party officer, party secretary and party agent of The Arts Party.
- 7.2. The role of the National Trust is to provide legal stability to the party and has no power to direct current party activities, other than those

- relating to constitutional and other related legal matters.
- 7.3. Changes to the party constitution presented by the current committee also require the majority approval of the National Trust who will then manage contact with the AEC.
  - 7.4. In the unlikely event that the Arts Party committee engages in conduct that contravenes the principles and purpose of the Arts Party in their actions, or threatens the legality of the Arts Party and by definition, the members of the National Trust, the National Trust has the right to suspend a committee and call an emergency General Meeting to appoint a new committee.
  - 7.5. Members of the National Trust are allowed to attend committee meetings at any time and engage in discussion, but have no voting rights (unless also a member of the committee).
  - 7.6. Should any National Trust role become vacant, the committee will be expected to endeavor to help fulfil that role, as quickly as is practicable, and aid the National Trust in the submissions of the appropriate paperwork to the AEC, as required.

### **Mechanism for changing this constitution**

- 7.4 Any amendments to this constitution of The Arts Party can be proposed by any member of the Committee of The Arts Party
- 7.5 Any amendments of this constitution shall be ratified by a majority vote of the Committee and a majority vote of the National Trust of The Arts Party, who will then manage it's lodgement with the AEC.

## **8. State and territory branches**

- 8.1. State and Territory branches of The Arts Party shall have their own constitutions as required by each Electoral Commission in each State or Territory.
- 8.2. State and Territory branches of The Arts Party shall elect their own State Committees that shall operate the state party as outlined in such aforementioned constitution.
- 8.3. All federal members of The Arts Party registered to vote in Australia shall be assumed to be a member of the State or Territory branch of The Arts Party for such States or Territories of Australia in which the member is registered to vote.
- 8.4. The committee of each state Arts Party is responsible for ensuring that they makes decisions and policies in line with the Aims, Objectives and Principles of The Arts Party, as outlined in this constitution.
- 8.5. If a state party decides to implement a paid membership structure for new members, 25% of the membership fees collected by the State Arts Party shall be distributed to the Federal Party.

## 9. Candidate selection

- 9.1. The Committee will ratify the selections of public office candidates for State, and Local Council elections in as many seats as practicable.
- 9.2. No candidate may stand for election as represented by The Arts Party unless ratified by the committee.
- 9.3. The Committee will select public office candidates for Federal elections in as many seats as practicable.
- 9.4. All proposed candidates must be members of The Arts Party.