

# The Arts Party

Supporting arts and creativity for all Australians

Party Constitution

Contact The Arts Party:

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

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## 1. Definitions

**MEMBERS:** are "natural persons" who are financial members of The Arts Party of Australia - not organisations, companies, associations.

**NATURAL PERSONS:** a legal term meaning 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:** Where 'state' is mentioned without being a part of the phrase 'state and territory' it should be read as 'state and territory' unless otherwise specified.

## 2. Introduction to the Constitution

The arts form an integral part of our 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.

Considering the value that artistic pursuits bring to our society, the arts are surprisingly underrepresented in Australian politics.

The Arts Party exists to address this imbalance.

The future of Australia will be decided by the quality of our ideas.

Music, the performing arts, film, television, radio, advertising, games and interactive content, writing, publishing, architecture, design, and the visual arts - all of them have the potential to create economic wealth, cultural depth and jobs - all of them enrich the lives of those who are practitioners of the arts, those who are consumers of the arts and the lives of all Australians

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

The Arts Party aims to enrich the lives of those people who wish to enjoy Australian artistic output, by designing and fighting for 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.

The Arts Party aims to improve the lives of all Australians by generating wealth through the expansion of the artistic industries. It aims to increase the quality of life of all Australians by supporting greater access to better Australian entertainment and broader access to high-quality Australian artistic product.

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.

An 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 develop the opportunity for these outcomes to be realised in schools, universities,

tafes and all other training institutions across Australia.

The Arts Party exists to find, foster and encourage the open, inclusive and innovative culture that the arts tend to generate. 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.

### **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 Executive.

#### **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:
  - 3.3.1.1. Encouraging self-expression through involvement in the arts;
  - 3.3.1.2. Wealth creation for Australians through the marketing and promotion of Australian culture and artistic output;
  - 3.3.1.3. Increasing quality of life for all Australians through open and easy access to all forms of art;
  - 3.3.1.4. The promotion of innovative thinking and a creative culture across all forms of business, education and industry within Australia;
  - 3.3.1.5. The support of an inclusive and pluralistic society within and across all Australia.
- 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.
- 3.3.4. To encourage other political parties to adopt policies and principles outlined in this constitution and in other documents released by TAP.
- 3.3.5. To promote and assist other associations and organisations and persons in working for the objectives of TAP.
- 3.3.6. To promote the development of and participate and communicate with the arts industries, both in Australia and globally.
- 3.3.7. To establish state-based and national policies that will help the

government and non-government sectors to plan and support 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 Australian educational system into the future. To prepare Australian students for the new world, requiring 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, as accepted by the National Executive.

### **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 Party.
- 4.2.3. Any interpretation of the Constitution, rules, platform, pledge or policy decisions will be made by the National Executive.

## **5. Membership**

- 5.1. Natural persons will be welcomed as Members provided that:
  - 5.1.1. they have read and agreed to the Constitution of the party and agreed to abide by its rules;
  - 5.1.2. they pay an annual membership fee.
- 5.2. The current value of annual membership fees:
  - 5.2.1. shall be determined by the National Executive;
  - 5.2.2. may change from time to time;
  - 5.2.3. may be offered in packages that allow persons to purchase membership for periods of multiple years;
  - 5.2.4. will be specified on TAP's official website;
  - 5.2.5. may be subject to special offers available to certain people at any time.
- 5.3. A member of the party may resign by contacting The Arts Party Membership Office, using the method specified on the contact page of The Arts Party's official website.
- 5.4. Any member of the party not on the National Executive may have their membership revoked by TAP at any time, should the National Executive 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 in disrepute by continuing to be a member.

5.4.1. Should a member have their membership revoked they will have a percentage of the last membership fee paid refunded to them. The percentage shall be calculated by the National Executive based on the amount of time the last paid membership had been purchased for, the percentage of that time already elapsed and any costs involved to the party in processing the member's membership and membership revocation.

## 6. Powers

6.1. The organisation of TAP shall have the following powers:

6.1.1. 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 TAP;

6.1.2. 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 TAP in the form of donations, annual subscriptions or otherwise;

6.1.3. to invest any moneys of TAP not immediately required for any of its objectives, in such a manner as may be desired;

6.1.4. 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 TAP;

6.1.5. 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 TAP;

6.1.6. to receive and accept donations, subscriptions and endowments or money or of any form of property;

6.1.7. to improve, manage, develop, sell, exchange, lease or otherwise turn to account all or any of the property of TAP;

6.1.8. to engage and dismiss all paid officers and employees of TAP and fix their remuneration and terms of employment;

6.1.9. 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 TAP;

6.1.10. to appoint a trustee or trustees personal or corporate to receive and hold any property on behalf of TAP and to allow any such property to remain outstanding in such trustee or trustees;

6.1.11. to do all such acts and things as may be conducive to the furtherance of any of the objectives of TAP;

6.2. TAP 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;
- 6.3. The income and property of TAP shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives of TAP 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 TAP. Provided always that 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 TAP, to any officers or employees of TAP or to any member thereof or other person.
- 6.4. If upon winding up or dissolution of the 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 TAP 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 TAP. Such company, association, society or other body shall be determined by the National Executive of TAP at or before the time of dissolution.

## 7. National Executive

- 7.1. The National Executive shall consist of:
- 7.1.1. The registered officer of the party
  - 7.1.2. The secretary of the party
  - 7.1.3. Any other persons that the National Executive deems appropriate by way of a majority vote
    - 7.1.3.1. Should the National Executive not be able to attain a clear majority of members who support the addition of a new member to the Executive, the proposed new member shall not receive a position on the National Executive
  - 7.1.4. Any member of the National Executive, except the registered officer of the party and the secretary of the party, can be removed from the National Executive by a majority vote of all members of the National Executive
    - 7.1.4.1. Should the National Executive not be able to attain a clear majority of members who support the removal of a current member to the Executive, the proposed current member shall not have their position on the National Executive revoked
  - 7.1.5. Any member of the National Executive may leave by informing the National Executive in writing of their intention to do so, at a date in the future set by the member in question
  - 7.1.6. The registered officer of the party can be removed from the

- National Executive by a vote involving all members of the National Executive except the registered officer.
- 7.1.6.1. The outcome of this vote must be unanimous.
  - 7.1.6.2. The vote, once proposed by a member of the National Executive, will be held, monitored and reported on by the secretary of the party
  - 7.1.6.3. Should such a vote succeed, the registered officer will cease to be the registered officer, a member of the party and a member of the National Executive.
- 7.1.7. The secretary of the party can be removed from the National Executive by a vote involving all members of the National Executive except the secretary.
- 7.1.7.1. The outcome of this vote must be unanimous.
  - 7.1.7.2. The vote, once proposed by a member of the National Executive, will be held, monitored and reported on by the registered officer of the party
  - 7.1.7.3. Should such a vote succeed, the secretary will cease to be the secretary, a member of the party and a member of the of National Executive.
- 7.1.8. Should the positions of secretary or the registered officer of the party become vacant for any reason, the National Executive will select a new person from the National Executive to fulfil that role, as quickly as is practicable, and submit the appropriate paperwork to the AEC, as required
- 7.1.9. The voting process for determining whether a majority decision can be reached shall be determined by the registered officer of the party and the secretary of the party prior to each vote being held
- 7.1.10. The voting process for determining whether a majority decision can be reached shall be communicated to the rest of the National executive by the registered officer of the party or the secretary of the party prior to each vote being held
- 7.1.11. The final outcome of any vote by the National Executive shall be confirmed and communicated to all members of the National Executive in a joint statement by both the registered officer of the party and the secretary of the party. Should such a vote be of high importance to all members, as determined by the National Executive, then the outcome of that vote shall also be communicated to all members of the party in a joint statement by both the registered officer of the party and the secretary of the party
- 7.1.12. Should the registered officer of the party and the secretary of the party not be able to agree upon the outcome of any particular vote

the vote shall be held invalid and another vote shall be undertaken

## **7.2. Election of Officers**

- 7.2.1. At its inaugural meeting and at every annual meeting the National Executive will elect from its own members the National Executive:
  - 7.2.1.1. Chair - who shall be responsible for chairing, steering, running and recording the outcome of party meetings and the decisions made therein
  - 7.2.1.2. Secretary - who shall be responsible for the day to day administration and correspondence of the party
  - 7.2.1.3. Treasurer - who shall be responsible for managing the party's finances and ensuring that the funds within the party's control are used in accordance with the powers outlined above. The treasurer is also responsible for ensuring that the funds within the party's control are used in the interests of achieving the party's objectives, as outlined above
  - 7.2.1.4. Party Agent - who shall be responsible for lodging required disclosure returns with the AEC and to keep such records of such as is required by law for the legally required amount of time

## **8. Decision Making**

### **8.1. Mechanism for changing this constitution<sup>1</sup>**

- 8.1.1. Any changes to the constitution can be proposed by any member of the National Executive of The Arts Party
- 8.1.2. Any future version of this constitution shall be ratified by a majority vote of the National Executive of The Arts Party on whether to accept the proposed new version of the constitution
- 8.1.3. Should an overall majority to accept or reject a new version of the constitution not be reached, then no change to the constitution will be accepted and the constitution will stay as is.

## **9. State and territory branches**

- 9.1. There are currently no state or territory branches of The Arts Party<sup>2</sup>
- 9.2. The process for creating these branches shall be specified in updates to

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<sup>1</sup> It is expected that the rules for updating the constitution will be further specified in later versions of this constitution. It is expected that a higher "bar" for changing the constitution will be implemented. The minimal requirements for implementing change to the constitution are maintained here in order to facilitate and streamline updates and corrections to this document, for The Arts Party, at its inception.

<sup>2</sup> It is expected that state and territory branches of TAP will be created as required in accordance with the stated objectives and powers of TAP outlined above

this constitution as outlined above

- 9.3. All rules and regulations relating to the branches of The Arts Party will be contained within this document and will be updated to this constitution by the process outlined above

## 10. Candidate selection

- 10.1. The National Executive will select public office candidates for Federal, State, Territory and Local Council elections in as many seats, States and Territories of Australia, and Local Councils as practicable and as is in accordance with the above mentioned objectives and powers of TAP
- 10.2. All proposed candidates must be members of TAP