

Proposed Constitutional Changes for 2023 AGM Member Briefing Document

Over the past few years of our work, we have evolved our focus and have successfully applied for charity status to improve ability to attract resources. The Australian Charities and not-for-profit Commission advised we fit into the educational category. On reflection, we realised that is indeed so. This year's constitutional changes are to complete the changes made over the past two years in the course of applying for and gaining charity status, and applying for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status with the ATO. They are consequent to suggestions from members and discussions within the Committee.

The major purpose of these changes is to emphasise CAPaD's educational focus, broaden the scope of our intended audience and make the objective for the Awakening Democracy Foundation less wordy.

Amendment Motion 1

To change the objectives of the constitution as proposed here:

Current constitutional wording	Proposed new wording (new words in italics)
To promote individual and community well-being and the common good in a healthy environment by:	To promote individual and community well-being and the common good in a healthy environment by <i>advancing education to inspire people to participate in strengthening democracy by:</i>
(1) empowering people in Canberra and Australia more broadly to own and plan for our common future by developing and supporting citizen, community and civil society engagement in public decision making,	(1) empowering people in Australia, and particularly Canberra, to own and <i>effectively participate in creating</i> our common future by developing and supporting <i>genuine</i> citizen, community and civil society engagement in public decision making,
(2) stimulating and facilitating opportunities for citizen and community input to government deliberation,	(2) stimulating and facilitating opportunities for citizens and community to <i>participate in government and particularly parliamentary</i> deliberation,
(3) developing and assisting citizen and community capacity to hold government more directly accountable,	(3) developing and assisting citizen and community capacity to hold government, <i>parliament, our elected representatives and policymakers</i> more directly accountable,
(4) advancing education,	Deleted and the words incorporated in the primary purpose; see above.
(5) to establish and maintain a public fund to be called the Awakening Democracy Foundation for the specific purpose of supporting the educational objects of CAPaD. The Fund is established to receive all gifts of money or property for this purpose and any money received because of such gifts must be credited to its bank account. The Fund must not receive any other money or property into its account and it must comply with the relevant subdivision of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, and	(4) to establish and maintain a public fund to be called the Awakening Democracy Foundation for the specific purpose of supporting the educational objects of CAPaD, and [the removed words are to be inserted into the Rules for the Awakening Democracy Foundation]
(6) any other purposes beneficial to the general public and analogous to the other charitable purposes.	(5) any other purposes beneficial to the general public and analogous to the other charitable purposes.

Amendment Motion 2

This proposed Constitutional change is to permit CAPaD to take a more Australia wide focus in line with our work with Active Democracy Australia, the Australian Democracy Network, the Stronger Charities Alliance, the Education for Civics project, the work with DemocracyCo on the electorate assembly kit and other future projects.

To amend Rule 6 by adding *Australia and* as proposed here:

Current constitutional wording	Proposed new wording (new words in italics)
6. Style of Operation of the Association The Association shall so far as possible (1) Seek broad based participation across Canberra;	6. Style of Operation of the Association The Association shall so far as possible (1) Seek broad based participation across <i>Australia and</i> Canberra;