



ALP ABROAD CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the organisation shall be Australian Labor Party Abroad, and shall be known as “ALP Abroad”. It was previously known as ALP Society of the UK (ALP UK Society).

2. ROLE

ALP Abroad is the organisation which represents all Australians and other interested people based outside of Australia who wish to adhere to the principles and further the aims of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) (hereafter ‘International Supporters’). Its role is to build a movement, which provides a voice, both within the ALP and the general community, for such International Supporters.

3. OBJECTIVES

The Objectives of ALP Abroad are both unique to ALP Abroad and in common with the ALP.

Uniquely, ALP Abroad has as its core objectives the organisation of international campaigns in support of the election of ALP candidates in relevant Australian elections and the establishment and maintenance of an ongoing dialogue among and between International Supporters and the ALP, ALP-led Australian State and Federal Governments and Oppositions and other relevant Australian and international individuals and institutions.

Commonly with the National Constitution of the ALP, ALP Abroad has the Democratic Socialist values set out in Annex 1 to this Constitution.

4. STRUCTURE

The structure of ALP Abroad is loosely based on the branch structure employed by the ALP in Australia. Different groups of International Supporters can form non-hierarchical parts of the ALP Abroad network, when and where they are able, preferably employing the model created and governed by this Constitution and informed by the experience of the previous ALP Society of the UK/ALP Abroad UK.

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Qualifications for Membership

Membership of ALP Abroad is open to any International Supporter. For the avoidance of doubt, International Supporters includes Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents, Australian temporary residents, and non-Australians who have an interest in supporting the Roles and Objectives of ALP Abroad. International Supporters should normally have their principal residence outside Australia.

5.2 Becoming a Financial Member

International Supporters will be required to complete an ALP Abroad membership form and pay a Membership Fee, as set under Article 8.2 of this Constitution, to become a Financial Member. Once an original membership form has been submitted and accepted, further annual memberships may be secured upon payment of the annual Membership Fee. Changes in personal details, such as change of address, email address, telephone numbers, etc. may be advised separately.

5.3 Membership Rights

Financial Members will have full attendance rights at all General Meetings of ALP Abroad. Financial Members will have full voting rights in all membership votes, whether such votes occur at General Meetings or Annual General Meetings. Nothing in this Constitution necessarily excludes the inclusion of International Supporters who are not Financial Members in the abovementioned votes and their inclusion will be a matter for the relevant meeting, to be decided, where necessary, by simple majority decision.

5.4 Cessation of Financial Membership

A Financial Member may resign by written notice to the Secretary and such resignation shall be effective immediately. Any Membership Fees will not be refunded, unless in exceptional circumstances.

A Financial Member who changes their principal residence to Australia shall normally resign by written notice.

5.5 Honorary and Life Members

ALP Abroad, by decision of the Executive Committee or AGM, may make any majority supported individual an Honorary and/or Life Member of ALP Abroad. An Honorary or Life Member need not have their principal residence outside of Australia.

An Honorary or Life Member may attend any General Meetings of ALP Abroad and participate in those meetings with the same rights as an ordinary member.

6. MEETINGS

6.1 Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in October or November of each calendar year.

The AGM will, among general and other business:

- elect officers and other members of the Executive Committee;
- approve ALP Abroad's accounts; and
- take any such other decisions or actions as may be appropriate.

The AGM shall be called by the outgoing Secretary or President in accordance with the regular notice procedures set out in Article 6.6 and shall function in accordance with the regular Quorum requirement set out in Article 6.5. Other applicable rules for the election of the Executive Committee at the AGM are set out in Section 7 of this Constitution.

6.2 General Meetings

ALP Abroad shall hold General Meetings. General Meetings shall be the main ongoing form by which Members are involved in the work of ALP Abroad.

General Meetings may take numerous forms, including but not limited to a meeting of Financial Members, to discuss policy and receptions and dinners with guest speakers.

General Meetings may be called:

- voluntarily by the Secretary and/or the President; and
- compulsorily by the Secretary and/or the President upon the receipt by the Secretary or President of a written request for a General Meeting of at least five (5) Financial Members.

6.3 Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee of ALP Abroad shall hold Executive Committee Meetings.

The calling and conduct of such meetings shall be governed by Article 7.3 of this Constitution

6.4 Other Meetings (Subcommittees)

Nothing in this Constitution will prevent the formation of other types of meetings as needed and requested by the Executive Committee. This extends to an Election Subcommittee during relevant Australian elections and any other such subcommittees or other meetings the Executive Committee decides to form or allow on an ad hoc basis.

6.5 Quorum

A quorum shall not normally apply to General Meetings. A quorum will however apply for General Meetings at which any vote is required and at AGM's and shall require the presence of:

- one member of the Executive Committee; and
- at least 5 other who are entitled to vote by operation of this Constitution.

Quorum for Executive Committee Meetings shall be governed by Article 7.3 of this Constitution.

Quorum for Subcommittees established under Article 6.4 shall be governed by the rules on quorum established by such subcommittees and where such rules are not established, by the general meetings rule established in this Article.

6.6 Notice

The Secretary or President shall send to each Financial Member and International Supporter who is not a Financial Member, by email or other such form, a notice of each General Meeting setting out the place and time of the meeting. Such notice will also, if applicable, include the proposed agenda for the General Meeting. The notice should be sent at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of any such meeting, unless in such case that the circumstances of the General Meeting mean a lesser period of notice is unavoidable. Such permissible lesser period of notice shall not apply to AGM's in which case 14 days forms the minimum notice period without exception.

Notice for Executive Committee Meetings shall be governed by Article 7.3 of this Constitution.

Notice for Subcommittees established under Article 6.4 shall be governed by the rules on notice established by such subcommittees and where such rules are not established, by the general meetings rule established in this Article.

6.7 Voting

Except where this Constitution requires otherwise, all decisions shall be taken by simple majority vote and in accordance with the Membership Rights set out in Article 5.3. Where such is needed, the Chair of the relevant meeting shall have the casting vote.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7.1 Composition

The Executive Committee of ALP Abroad shall be the chief governing and administrative body of ALP Abroad and shall be constituted by the following elected officers, all of whom should ordinarily be Financial Members:

- President;
- Vice President (at least one);
- Secretary;
- Treasurer

In addition, the Executive Committee shall also be constituted, where possible, by the following elected officers, all of whom should ordinarily be Financial Members:

- Website Officer (at least one);
- Campaign Officer;
- Booth co-ordinator;
- Returning officer, and
- Others Positions and General Committee.

Structure of additional executive roles will be determined from time to time to meet current requirements by agreement of a properly constituted meeting.

7.2 Duties and Position Descriptions of Executive Committee Members

7.2.1 President

The President, when available, shall attend and preside at all General Meetings of ALP Abroad and of the Executive Committee. The President is responsible, in consultation with the Executive Committee, for guiding the direction and activities of ALP Abroad so as to meet the Role and Objectives of ALP Abroad as set out in this Constitution.

The President is responsible for the various other duties and tasks established under this Constitution.

7.2.2 Vice President

The Vice President shall assist the President with the direction and activities of ALP Abroad. In the case that the President resigns or is no longer able to fulfil their role; the Vice President will assist the Secretary until the casual vacancy of President is filled in accordance with Article 7.2 of this Constitution.

Nothing in this Constitution prevents the creation of additional Vice Presidents as needed and as elected in accordance with Article 7.2 of this Constitution.

7.2.3 Secretary

The Secretary, when available, shall attend all General Meetings of ALP Abroad and of the Executive Committee and shall record the attendance at and minutes of such meetings. Such minutes shall, in a reasonable period of time, be circulated to the relevant Members or Executive Committee Members. As such the Secretary is the custodian of the ALP Abroad attendance book and is obliged to transfer this record to the Secretary-elect at each AGM.

If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the Secretary shall take the chair. The Secretary is responsible for the various other duties and tasks established under this Constitution.

7.2.4 Treasurer

The Treasurer, when available, shall attend all General Meetings of ALP Abroad and of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the finances of ALP Abroad, as set out in Section 8 of this Constitution and includes the development and formulation, in consultation with the President, Secretary and other members of the Executive Committee, of the annual budget (Article 8.1). The Treasurer shall present the Annual Budget at each AGM. The Treasurer shall maintain ALP Abroad's financial statements and a register of Financial Members.

The Treasurer is the custodian of the ALP Abroad cheque book and other such financial documents and statements and is obliged to transfer these records to the Treasurer-elect at each AGM.

7.2.5 Website Officer

The Website Officer, when available, shall attend all General Meetings of ALP Abroad and of the Executive Committee. The Website Officer, in consultation with the President, Secretary and other members of the Executive Committee, will administer the ALP Abroad web presence, namely through its website at www.alpabroad.org.

Nothing in this Constitution prevents the creation of additional Website Officers or social media co-ordinators as needed as elected in accordance with Article 7.2 of this Constitution.

7.2.6 Campaigns co-ordinator

The campaign co-ordinator shall take responsibility for mobilising members for campaigns as agreed for the AGM.

7.2.7 Booth Co-ordinator

The booth co-ordinator shall be responsible for ensuring the staffing and operation of the polling station in consultation with the campaign co-ordinator.

7.2.7 General Committee

There can be six General committee members. They can take lead in organising particular events Nothing in this Constitution prevents the creation of General

Committee positions as needed and as elected in accordance with Article 7.2 of this Constitution.

7.2.8 Returning Officer

The returning officer shall be conduct the election for officers at the AGM and any elections caused by casual vacancy.

7.2.9 Other Positions

Nothing in this Constitution prevents the creation of other positions as needed and as elected in accordance with Article 7.2 of this Constitution.

7.3 Election

Following a call for nominations, each member of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a twelve (12) month term by a simple majority vote at the AGM. The term of those elected shall commence at the conclusion of the voting section of the AGM at which they are elected. They shall be subject to re-election at each AGM, with no limits on the number of terms permitted in any one position.

Elections shall be conducted by a nominated, seconded and majority supported Returning Officer. The Returning officer shall designate a time for close of nominations in the meeting notice prior to the time of the meeting.

At the meeting, the Returning Officer will read out the names of those nominated for each position on the Executive Committee, and their nominator and seconder. Where only one nomination is received, that person shall be duly elected unopposed.

In the case of multiple nominations for one position on the Executive Committee, a contested election will be required. In such a situation, a secret ballot, the methods of which shall be determined by the Returning Officer, shall be conducted of all financial members present.

Where positions are unfilled at close of nominations the returning officer may call for nominations from the meeting.

Casual vacancies on the Executive Committee may be filled by the two-thirds consent of the Executive Committee as present at the relevant Executive Committee meeting dealing with the vacancy.

7.4 Meetings

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President or Secretary. The President or Secretary shall send to each member of the Executive Committee notice, by email or other such form, of each Executive Committee Meeting setting out the place and time of the meeting. Such notice shall also include the proposed agenda for the Executive Committee Meeting. The notice should be sent at least seven (7) days prior to the date of any such meeting, unless in such case that the circumstances of the Executive Committee Meeting mean a lesser period of notice is unavoidable. Such permissible lesser period of notice shall not apply to Executive Committee meetings dealing with casual

vacancies (Article 7.2) and annual budget amendments (Article 8.1) in which case 7 days forms the minimum notice period without exception.

A quorum shall require the presence of:

- the President or the Secretary; and
- at least two (2) other members of the Executive Committee.

8. FINANCE

8.1 Financial Statement

The Treasurer shall produce a Financial Statement for approval at each AGM.

8.2 Membership fees and year

The Executive Committee shall set the annual Membership Fee payable by each Financial Member. The Executive Committee shall have the discretion to set half fees, student fees and other such fee structures as it deems necessary.

That membership of ALP Abroad be

- 1) From December 1 to November 30th of each year.
- 2) £15 pound waged and £8 unwaged be the fee payable in the membership year
- 3) Where a new member joins after September 1st their membership fee covers the next full membership year.

8.3 Bank accounts

The Executive Committee shall open a bank account in the name of ALP Abroad. The following Executive Committee members shall be signatories to the account:

- Treasurer;
- President;
- Secretary; and
- One other as selected by the Executive Committee

Any cheque paying funds out of the account shall require the signature of at least two (2) signatories.

That for internet banking we authorise the setting up and operation of internet banking where the President will be the master user and will be solely be able to delegate access to other users who are members of the Executive".

The Executive is also authorised to approve the operation of a debit card solely by a Executive member authorised by the Executive.

8.4 Use of funds

Funds may only be used in support of the Role and Objectives of ALP Abroad.

8.5 Dissolution

In such case that ALP Abroad decides to dissolve itself, such dissolution must be completed in accordance with Article 9 of this Constitution. Upon such dissolution, all monies held in the account shall be applied as follows:

- First, any creditors shall be paid in accordance with the regular signatory requirements set out in Article 8.3 of this Constitution
- Secondly and only where requested, refunds shall be made to Financial Members as a proportion of their paid annual Membership Fee calculated by determining the monthly rate and multiplying this rate by the number of months between the month of dissolution and the end of the calendar year;
- Finally, any and all remaining funds will be donated to the ALP National Office, Canberra.

9. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may only be amended by a resolution passed by two-thirds of the Financial Members of ALP Abroad present in person at a duly constituted General Meeting or AGM of ALP Abroad. The text of any proposed amendment shall be circulated at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which such amendment is to be discussed and/or voted upon.

ANNEX 1

In accordance with Section 3 of the ALP Abroad Constitution and derived from Part A, Sections 2 and 3(a)-(w) of the ALP National Constitution, ALP Abroad has the following Objectives:

1. Australian Labor Party is a democratic socialist party and has the objective of the democratic socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange, to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other anti-social features in these fields.
2. To achieve the political and social values of equality, democracy, liberty and social cooperation inherent in this objective, the Australian Labor Party stands for:
 - (a) redistribution of political and economic power so that all members of society have the opportunity to participate in the shaping and control of the institutions and relationships which determine their lives;
 - (b) establishment and development of public enterprises, based upon federal, State and other forms of social ownership, in appropriate sectors of the economy;
 - (c) democratic control and strategic social ownership of Australian natural resources for the benefit of all Australians;
 - (d) maintenance of and support for a competitive non-monopolistic private sector, including small business and farming, controlled and owned by Australians, operating within clear social guidelines and objectives;
 - (e) the right to own private property;
 - (f) recognition and encouragement of the right of labour to organise for the protection and advancement of its interests;
 - (g) the application of democracy in industry to increase the opportunities for people to work in satisfying, healthy and humane conditions; and to participate in and to increase their control over the decision making processes affecting them;
 - (h) the promotion of socially appropriate technology and the monitoring of its introduction to ensure that the needs and interests of labour, as well as the

requirements of competitive industry and consumer demand, are taken into consideration;

(i) the restoration and maintenance of full employment;

(j) the abolition of poverty, and the achievement of greater equality in the distribution of income, wealth and opportunity;

(k) social justice and equality for individuals, the family and all social units, and the elimination of exploitation in the home;

(l) equal access and rights to employment, education, information, technology, housing, health and welfare services, cultural and leisure activities and the law;

(m) reform of the Australian Constitution and other political institutions to ensure that they reflect the will of the majority of Australian citizens and the existence of Australia as an independent republic;

(n) recognition and protection of fundamental political and civil rights, including freedom of expression, the press, assembly, association, conscience and religion; the right to privacy; the protection of the individual from oppression by the state; and democratic reform of the Australian legal system;

(o) the development of a democratic communications system, as an integral part of a free society, to which all citizens have opportunities for free access;

(p) elimination of discrimination and exploitation on the grounds of class, race, sex, sexuality, religion, political affiliation, national origin, citizenship, age, disability, regional location, economic or household status;

(q) recognition of the prior ownership of Australian land by Aborigines and Islanders; recognition of their special and essential relationship with the land as the basis of their culture; and a commitment to the return of established traditional lands to the ownership of Aboriginal and Islander communities;

(r) recognition and encouragement of diversity of cultural expression and lifestyle within the Australian community;

(s) the use, conservation and enhancement of Australia's natural resources and environment so that the community's total quality of life, both now and into the future, is maintained and improved;

(t) recognition of the need to work towards achieving ecologically sustainable development;

(u) maintenance of world peace; an independent Australian position in world affairs; the recognition of the right of all nations to self determination and independence; regional and international agreement for arms control and disarmament; the provision of economic and social aid to developing nations; a commitment to resolve international conflicts through the UN; and a recognition of the inalienable right of all people to liberty, equality, democracy and social justice;

(v) commitment to and participation in the international democratic socialist movement as represented by the Socialist International; and

(w) recognition of the right of citizens to work for progressive changes consistent with the broad principles of democratic socialism.

Document History

The ALP Abroad constitution was adopted at the AGM 2005 and has been amended

- at the 2013 AGM change AGM dates and executive roles.
- at the 2015 AGM to clarify membership fees and membership year.
- at April 8th 2019 meeting to enable the operation of internet banking.