

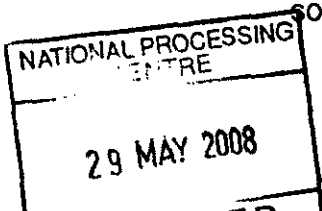
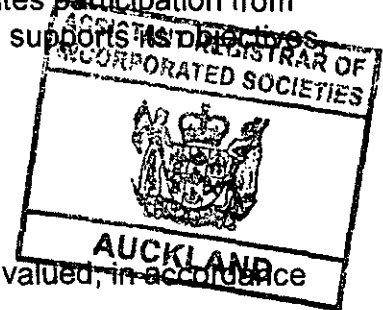
## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION ACTION GROUP INCORPORATED

### 1. NAME

- 1.1 The name of the society is Inclusive Education Action Group Incorporated (referred to in the following rules as the Group).

### 2. OBJECTS

- 2.1 The Group is a national body made up of individuals and organisations committed to ensuring that the rights of all disabled persons to an inclusive education are realised and that all disabled children, young people and adults can participate fully in their local, regular educational setting.
- 2.2 The Group is not affiliated with any political party and invites participation from persons and organisations who share the Group's vision, supports its objectives, policies and principles.
- 2.3 The Group is to be run by its members.
- 2.4 The Group's work is based on the following principles:
- (a) All people are equal and should be respected and valued, in accordance with basic human rights.
  - (b) Barriers to learning and participation for everyone, irrespective of sex, marital status, religious belief, ethical belief, colour, race, ethnic or national origins, disability, age, political opinion, employment status, family status, sexual orientation or any other factor must be eliminated to allow all people to experience belonging and community within their local educational settings.
  - (c) All persons engage in education delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual.
  - (d) Inclusive education cannot exist alongside special education and must replace the present dual system of mainstream and special education. Inclusive education means meeting the educational needs of all students within inclusive environments.
  - (e) Inclusive education can be both cost-efficient and cost effective.
  - (f) Inclusive education gives all students a better education than segregated 'special education' settings, and increases the ability of all citizens to better participate in their communities. Inclusive education is a critical foundation for inclusive communities.
  - (g) No disabled person should be denied the right to participate fully in inclusive educational settings alongside their peers. The purpose of education is to ensure that all people become participating citizens in a civil democratic society.



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29

2.5 The Group aims to meet its objectives, in accordance with the above principles, by:

- (a) recognising that disabled people are often denied the right to participate in education with other people of their age. Through our work we aim to promote knowledge, attitudes, policies and practices that facilitate inclusive education so that all disabled children, youth and adults will have equal opportunities to learn and flourish in their local, regular, educational setting;
- (b) conducting research, disseminating information and promoting public awareness of the importance of inclusive education for all communities;
- (c) monitoring and contributing to government research and policy to ensure that legislation, policies and practices support and contribute to the development of inclusive education and inclusive communities;
- (d) developing links with national and international organisations with principles and objectives similar or complementary to the Group's principles and objectives;
- (e) promoting activities and initiatives that are to the benefit of its member organisations;
- (f) working to build a society consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi that recognises and responds positively to both Treaty partners and all cultures;
- (g) developing people's awareness of the way exclusive practices are developed and maintained so that members and member organisations may work to develop a fair and just society;
- (h) carrying out any other activities that further the Group's charitable objectives.

### 3. POWERS

3.1 To further the above charitable objects the Group shall have the following powers:

- (a) To purchase, lease, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property.
- (b) To sell, let, mortgage, hire out or otherwise dispose of or deal with any property or assets of the Group.
- (c) To construct, maintain or alter any buildings or property.
- (d) To borrow, raise or invest money on such terms as may be thought fit.
- (e) To enter into or terminate any contracts of employment or contracts of service.
- (f) To enter into or terminate any contract or arrangement with any government department, corporation or other body.

- (g) To do all such other things which will further the charitable objects of the Group within New Zealand / Aotearoa.

3.2 However, unless specifically authorised by a vote of the members of the Group, the Group cannot apply for funding from any organisation where such an application would prevent any member of the Group applying for funding from that organisation.

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

4.1 The following organisations shall, subject to payment of any membership fee, be members of the Group:

- (a) Organisations and individuals who are committed to the objectives and principles of the Group and who have signed the application for incorporation.
- (b) Organisations and individuals who are committed to the objectives and principles of the Group may apply for membership, and whose membership application is approved by the governing committee.

4.2 Each member organisation must give the Group written notice of a duly authorised representative for that organisation and the Group shall register the name of that person as the duly authorised representative of the member organisation.

4.3 A member organisation may, by giving notice in writing to the Group, change their nominated representative. Any change of representative shall take effect upon the Group receiving the notice of change of representative.

4.4 The nominated representative for each organisation shall act as agent for the member organisation and cast the member's vote at any General or Special Meeting until such time as the Group is notified in writing of a change of representative.

4.5 Each member organisation retains its full legal autonomy.

#### **5. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

5.1 Associate membership of the Group is subject to the same rules as membership of the Group.

5.2 Associate members of the Group do not have voting rights in the Group nor do they count as part of the quorum for any Special or General Meeting of the Group nor may their representative count as a member for the purpose of requesting the governing committee to call a Special General Meeting.

#### **6. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

6.1 Any member may resign its membership by submitting a written resignation to the governing committee of the Group.

- 6.2 If, in the opinion of the governing committee, any member has acted in a manner that is harmful to the Group, that member may be expelled by a two-thirds majority of the governing committee, provided that:
- (a) the Group notifies the member concerned of the proposed expulsion and the reasons for it; and
  - (b) the member concerned is given an opportunity to be heard by the governing committee considering the expulsion; and
  - (c) the expelled member has a right of appeal to a General Meeting within 21 days of the governing committee's decision. The governing committee shall call a Special General Meeting to consider the appeal.
- 6.3 Any member who has failed to pay any annual membership fee within 60 days of the date set by the General Meeting each year shall cease to be a member unless, at the discretion of the governing committee, the membership fee is waived or such further time is provided for the organisation to pay its membership fee.
- 6.4 If in the opinion of the governing committee any member has ceased commitment to the Groups' objectives, principles or beliefs, the governing committee must give notice to the organisation of the Group's intention to terminate that organisation's membership in the Group at the next General Meeting unless the member organisation can show to the satisfaction of the Group that it continues to meet the eligibility criteria for membership in the Group. At the General Meeting the Group will indicate its satisfaction that the member organisation meets, or fails to meet, the eligibility criteria by majority vote of members present at the General Meeting.

## **7. MEMBERSHIP FEE**

- 7.1 The Annual General Meeting may fix an annual fee or fees from time to time.

## **8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 8.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Group will be held each year not more than fifteen months after the previous Annual Meeting.
- 8.2 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include the following:
- (a) Presentation of the annual report and the financial accounts.
  - (b) Appointment of a governing committee and an auditor.
  - (c) Consideration of any other business under these rules, or consideration of any other business that the Annual General Meeting believes should be carried out.

## **9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 9.1 The governing committee may call Special General Meetings.

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- 9.2 Any 3 members of the Group may request the governing committee to call a Special General Meeting. Such a request must include notice of matters the members wish to discuss at the Special General Meeting.
- 9.3 Where the governing committee has been requested to call a Special General Meeting it must, within 21 days of receiving the request, give notice of the Special General Meeting.

## **10. NOTICE OF GENERAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- 10.1 At least 21 days notice of all General Meetings shall be given but in no case shall the period between giving notice and the date of the meeting exceed 4 months.
- 10.2 Notice of all General and Special Meetings shall be delivered to the current contact address, as listed with the Group for this purpose, of all current members of the Group.
- 10.3 The notice shall state the time, date and place of the Meeting.
- 10.4 Notice of a Special General Meeting shall include the reasons for calling the meeting.

## **11. QUORUM OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 11.1 The Quorum for all General and Special Meetings shall comprise of 8 duly authorised representatives of at least 15 members.
- 11.2 A representative may represent more than one member organisation.
- 11.3 Each member organisation can be represented by only one duly authorised representative.

## **12. GOVERNING COMMITTEE**

- 12.1 The governing committee shall comprise individuals or a representative of a member organisation.
- 12.2 Members of the governing committee are appointed at the Annual General Meeting to carry out the aims and objectives of the Group.
- 12.3 There shall be a minimum of 6 governing committee members and a maximum of 10 governing committee members.
- 12.4 The majority of governing committee members shall be made up of people with disabilities or members of families within which there is a disabled person.
- 12.5 The governing committee shall comprise of persons responsible for carrying out the following roles:

- (a) Two Co-convenors, one male and one female, and one who is either a disabled person or a member of a family within which there is a disabled person.
  - (b) Secretary.
  - (c) Treasurer.
  - (d) Two spokespeople.
  - (e) Two Maori representatives.
- 12.6 One person may fill two roles.
- 12.7 Only members of the Group may be governing committee members.
- 12.8 Membership of the governing committee can be rescinded and a new member appointed at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.
- 12.9 Nominations for the governing committee shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Committee prior to the Annual General Meeting. The nominations shall be signed by the representative of the nominating organisation.
- 12.10 The functions of the governing committee shall be:
- (a) to carry out any policy set at General Meetings;
  - (b) to initiate any policy;
  - (c) to keep proper books of account and operate the Group's finances;
  - (d) to keep a register of members;
  - (e) to have control of the common seal;
  - (f) to call General Meetings;
  - (g) to carry out all other aspects of the Group's operations;
  - (h) to allocate responsibilities to sub-committees;
  - (i) to employ staff for the Group.
- 12.11 The governing committee may co-opt any other representative on to its committee to fill a vacancy on the committee or for any other reason.
- 12.12 The quorum for governing committee meetings shall be a simple majority of the governing committee membership.
- 12.13 The governing committee may appoint sub-committees to carry out any of its functions.
- 12.14 The governing committee must report regularly to members to assist the governing committee set directions for the Group.

1274

12.15 If a governing committee member is absent for two consecutive meetings the member is deemed to have submitted their resignation from their position on the governing committee. The governing committee, at its discretion, can decide whether or not to accept the resignation.

### **13. ROLES OF GOVERNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

13.1 The role of the Co-convenors is to:

- (a) lead the Group in accordance with the Group's Rules;
- (b) convene meetings;
- (c) chair meetings;
- (d) oversee the operation of the Group;
- (e) provide a report on the Group's operations to the Annual General Meeting;
- (f) manage the Group's bank account(s);
- (g) ensure the Group's compliance with the requirements of the incorporated Societies Act 1908.

13.2 The role of the Secretary is to:

- (a) record the minutes of meetings;
- (b) keep a register of members;
- (c) hold the Group's records, documents and books;
- (d) receive and reply to correspondence as required by the governing committee or the Group;
- (e) retain the Group's common seal.

13.3 The role of the Treasurer is to:

- (a) collect and receive all payments made to the Group;
- (b) keep true and accurate records of the Group's financial position that can be clearly understood at any time;
- (c) provide the Annual General Meeting with a financial report, statement of accounts and proposed operating budget for the next financial year, and at any other meeting if required by the governing committee or a majority of the membership;
- (d) forward the Group's annual financial statements to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies upon approval at an Annual General Meeting.

13.4 The role of the governing committee includes the following:

- (a) Liaising with media in relation to the objectives of and principles of the Group.
- (b) Ensuring that all information given to the media is consistent with the Group's objectives, purposes and principles.
- (c) Liaising with Maori on all matters relating to the Group's objectives, purposes and principles, whenever it is appropriate to do so.
- (d) Ensuring that all decisions of the governing committee and of the Group include consideration of the views and perspectives of Maori.
- (e) Liaising with disabled people, including disabled children, on all matters relating to the Group's objectives, purposes and principles, whenever it is appropriate to do so.
- (f) Ensuring that all decisions of the governing committee and of the group include consideration of the views and perspectives of disabled people.
- (g) Liaising with the academic community as appropriate.
- (h) Ensuring that the governing committee and the Group receives and is able to consider the most recent research for the purpose of carrying out the Group's objectives.

#### **14. DECISION MAKING**

14.1 Decision making at both General Meetings and meetings of the governing committee shall be by consensus but failing a consensus decisions shall be made by a two-thirds majority with each member or member organisation having one vote. Voting for the appointment of the governing committee shall be compulsory, regardless of the number of nominations received. This shall be done by secret ballot.

#### **15. CONTROL OF FUNDS**

15.1 The governing committee through its Treasurer shall keep proper books of account.

15.2 All funds received by or on behalf of the Group shall be paid into the Group's bank account.

15.3 All cheques and withdrawal slips drawn on the Group's account will be signed by two of the people designated by resolution of the governing committee.

15.4 The income and property of the Group shall be applied solely to further the objects of the Group. No income or property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to members of the Group. This shall not prevent the payment of



reasonable remuneration to any member or officer or employee of the Group for any services performed by them for the Group.

## **16. COMMON SEAL**

- 16.1 The common seal of the Group will be kept in the custody of the Secretary.
- 16.2 The common seal will be affixed with the signatures of two persons designated by the governing committee to such documents as the governing committee decides.

## **17. ALTERATION OF THE RULES**

- 17.1 The rules of the Group may be added to, altered, or rescinded by a resolution of a General Meeting.
- 17.2 Any proposed change(s) shall be included on the notice calling the General Meeting.
- 17.3 No addition or alteration shall remove the charitable status of the Group.

## **18. WINDING UP**

- 18.1 In the event of the Group winding up the surplus assets shall be distributed to other approved charitable societies or organisations with similar charitable aims within New Zealand to be determined by the Group at or by the time of dissolution, or in default thereof by a Judge of the High Court of New Zealand.

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