



ea *Engaging Australia in global mission*

Linking God's people in mission

REGULATIONS

(as amended June 2008)

A Commission of the Australian Evangelical Alliance Inc
ABN 54 056 007 820 A0012495P

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PREAMBLE

Representatives of missionary societies and related organisations, meeting as a national forum of evangelical missions in Canberra from 31 January to 2 February 1986, considered it expedient, conformable to the will of God, expressive of our discipleship to the Lord Jesus Christ, and a step towards facilitating fulfilment of His great Commission, to constitute an Australian Commission of evangelical missions as follows:

1. NAME

The name is Australian Evangelical Alliance Inc. Missions Commission, hereinafter referred to as Missions Interlink, which is its operating name for the purpose of better communication with the Christian public.

2. AEA RELATIONSHIPS

- 2.1 Missions Interlink is an arm of the Australian Evangelical Alliance Inc. (AEA) and embodies the AEA's generally expressed missionary concern, as well as generally modelling the AEA constitutional object.
- 2.2 Missions Interlink has executive responsibility and autonomy of action within the approved policies agreed upon in consultation from time to time between the AEA Board and Missions Interlink.
- 2.3 Missions Interlink is administered by a National Leadership Team (Sec 6) which has powers delegated to it by the AEA Board, and reports regularly to the AEA Board.

3. OBJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Missions Interlink will be responsible for the advancement in Australia of the cause of global missions and the objects of AEA particularly in their application to the missionary task by:

- 3.1 Providing national forums where leaders and staff of member organisations may meet for prayer, fellowship, mutual understanding and encouragement; and to study, discuss, evaluate and formulate missionary challenges, principles, policies and practice, including the establishment and maintenance of ethical standards of conduct.
- 3.2 Fostering relationships and co-operation with the World Evangelical Alliance Missions Commission and its member bodies worldwide, with a particular concern for partnership with emerging missionary movements in the non-Western world.
- 3.3 Developing and maintaining networks (at both national and state levels) for the exchange of information and ideas for the mutual benefit of Members. For the purposes of representation, state branches of Missions Interlink shall be regarded as national networks of Missions Interlink.
- 3.4 Promoting co-operation and co-ordinating joint action of all kinds and at all levels amongst Member organisations so as to facilitate effective ministry and proper stewardship of available resources, and where appropriate, encouraging the amalgamation of agencies.
- 3.5 Speaking with a united evangelical voice to the Christian and general public on matters relating to missions.
- 3.6 Initiating missions research and promoting the study of missiology in consultation and co-operation with other research, resource and training institutions.
- 3.7 Publishing missions resources, including education and information materials.
- 3.8 Exchanging information and materials with similar bodies in Australia and overseas.
- 3.9 Conducting conferences, consultations, seminars and congresses on subjects important to the cause of missions, facilitating the presence of those from within Australia or overseas who can contribute significantly to such activities.

- 3.10 Approaching authorities in Australia and elsewhere on behalf of missionaries and member organisations, and where appropriate representing them, in matters relating to their welfare or responsibilities.
- 3.11 Promoting communication and discussion with churches and other Christian agencies on matters of mutual interest
- 3.12 Co-operating with like-minded bodies in advancing any or all of these or similar objects.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Missions Interlink exists to link Australian mission agencies and related organisations, local churches and individuals in promoting cross cultural mission, sharing resources and planning joint initiatives. Missions Interlink also advocates on behalf of its member organisations in areas such as taxation, charities legislation, Centrelink and Medicare.
- 4.2 **FULL MEMBERS.** The National Leadership Team may admit mission agencies (Regulation 4.2.1 and 4.2.2) and related organisations (Regulation 4.2.3) to Full Membership of Missions Interlink, upon affirmation of their acceptance of the AEA Statement of Faith, commitment to the objects of Missions Interlink and to its Core Values (see Missions Interlink Standards Statement, Appendix 2) and compliance with the financial and other standards as set out in the Standards Statement. However, the National Leadership Team reserves the right to decline membership to any applicant without providing reasons.
 - 4.2.1 Mission agencies may fall into one or more of the following types:
 - a. Missionary sending agencies
 - b. Ministry and leadership support and/or training agencies working overseas
 - c. Christian aid and development agencies working overseas
 - d. Advocacy and relief agencies for overseas persecuted Christians
 - e. Ministries to Australian indigenous peoples in their traditional context
 - 4.2.2 To qualify for membership, mission agencies will be involved in many of the following activities:
 - a. Language learning
 - b. Orientation to cross cultural living
 - c. Pastoral care of overseas field workers
 - d. Re-entry and debriefing of field workers
 - e. Overseas training programs
 - f. Overseas partnership programs
 - g. Overseas projects
 - h. Prayer support for overseas missions
 - i. Negotiating with overseas governments
 - j. International travel
 - k. Remitting funds overseas
 - 4.2.3 Related organisations are those which have a significant support role to mission agencies in training, providing resources and services, illustrated by the following examples:
 - a. Missionary and overseas worker training
 - b. Theological training for overseas Bible College personnel
 - c. Aviation and communications
 - d. Fund-raising and funding
 - e. Ministry and work teams
 - f. Mobilisation and partnership
 - g. Print, audio and audiovisual distribution
 - h. Radio and media services
 - i. Tentmaker programs
 - j. Bible translation and literacy
 - k. Overseas travel and medical services

- 4.2.4 Australian local churches that recruit and assign missionaries, or coordinate overseas aid and development projects in cross cultural situations, may be admitted as Full Members if they comply with the Standards of Missions Interlink.
- 4.2.5 All Full Members of Missions Interlink agree to have their compliance reviewed from time to time and are permitted to publicise their membership of Missions Interlink by the use of an approved seal of endorsement in their publicity.
- 4.3 **COMPOSITE OR CONGLOMERATE ORGANISATIONS.** Organisations with subsidiaries, or which are federally structured, or which are composed of several branches, sections, activities or divisions, shall be treated as single Full Members for membership and membership levy purposes and shall have a single vote at General or Special Meetings. However, this shall not limit the number of representatives they may have on national or state leadership teams, provided they do not have a controlling majority of the quorum numbers for any of these teams.
- 4.4 **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.** Applicants who can demonstrate a significant involvement or interest in cross cultural ministry that do not meet all the criteria for full membership, including compliance with all the Standards of Missions Interlink, but accept the AEA Statement of Faith and the MI Statement of Core Values, may be granted Associate Member status.
- 4.4.1 Some examples may include:
- a. Organisations which have been operating in Australia for less than two years
 - b. Organisations which are not endorsed as Tax Concession Charities
 - c. Organisations which cannot provide annual financial reports for their Australian finances audited by an Australian auditor
 - d. Local churches which do not meet the criteria of Regulation 4.2.4 above
 - e. Overseas agencies operating in Australia which are endorsed by a national missions movement linked to the Mission Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance, or which can demonstrate a commitment to the objectives of Missions Interlink
 - f. Para-church organisations
- 4.4.2 Associate Members have no voting rights at General or Special Meetings but may be upgraded to Full Member status by demonstrating compliance with the membership requirements and Standards of Missions Interlink.
- 4.4.3 Associate Members may participate in the national and state activities of Missions Interlink subject to the limitations described in Regulation 4.7.
- 4.4.4 Associate Members will not be included in the list of Prescribed members for tax exemption under ATO Regulation 50-50.01.
- 4.4.5 Associate Members are not eligible to provide members for the National Leadership Team.
- 4.5 **AFFILIATE MEMBERS.** Entities which would otherwise qualify for membership, but are managed or controlled by existing Full Member organisations, may be accepted as Affiliate Members on the payment of a nominal annual fee, to access specific member benefits. Affiliate Members have no voting rights at General or Special Meetings of Missions Interlink.
- 4.6 **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.** Natural persons who have an involvement or interest in, and commitment to cross cultural ministry and the objectives of Missions Interlink, and who subscribe to the AEA Statement of Faith and the MI Statement of Core Values, may be granted Individual Member status. Individual Members have no voting rights at General or Special Meetings of Missions Interlink.
- 4.7 **PARTICIPATION IN STATE ACTIVITIES.** Full and Associate Members of Missions Interlink may participate in all events organised by Missions Interlink, its ministries or networks, and

the state branches of Missions Interlink in those states where the Member is actively represented. Full and Associate Members not actively represented in a state may be invited to participate in events and activities organised by that state. Where there are space or numeric limitations on participation, state branches are encouraged to establish an appropriate system for determining participation.

- 4.8 **REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP.** The National Leadership Team of Missions Interlink shall establish a procedure for the regular review of the eligibility of members to ensure that they meet the membership requirements on an ongoing basis. A review may also be occasioned by a Member:
- a. failing to pay the annual membership fee within a reasonable period of time;
 - b. failing to conform to the Regulations or spirit of the Standards Statement of Missions Interlink, or
 - c. engaging in activities prejudicial to the stated Objects and accepted Standards of Missions Interlink.
- 4.9 **COMPLAINTS PROCESS.** Any complaint made against a member must be in writing to the National Leadership Team and must specify the MI Standard the member is alleged to have breached, if applicable. Complaints will be investigated by the National Leadership Team of Missions Interlink.
- 4.9.1 In the event of a complaint being brought against a member, they shall co-operate with an investigation by the National Leadership Team. Failure to co-operate with the inquiry and reconciliation process will constitute a breach of the Standards.
- 4.9.2 Prior to the consideration of any suspension or termination of membership, an opportunity will be given to the Member to discuss the proposed review of eligibility of membership with the National Leadership Team.
- 4.9.3 Any unresolved dispute about membership may be referred by either the Member or the National Leadership Team to the Board of the Australian Evangelical Alliance for a final decision.

5. MEETINGS

- 5.1 General Meetings of Missions Interlink, must be convened at least once every three calendar years. Such meetings shall normally be held with an associated national gathering of Members for fellowship, inspiration and information.
- 5.2 The General Meeting shall be held at a date and location determined by the National Leadership Team with at least two months notice provided to Members.
- 5.3 Business of the General Meetings shall include the presentation of financial reports covering the most recent financial year and reports from the National Leadership Team and each recognised network and ministry. The meeting shall also receive the budget for the next financial year and confirm the membership fees for the following year as recommended by the National Leadership Team. A ballot will be conducted to elect the CEO representatives to the National Leadership Team. The appointment of network leaders and ministry leaders to the National Leadership Team shall also be confirmed.
- 5.4 Between General Meetings, the National Leadership Team shall carry out the functions of a General Meeting of Missions Interlink after 30 June in each calendar year, to receive financial and other reports, budgets and to set the annual membership fees.
- 5.5 Special Meetings of Missions Interlink may be called by the National Leadership Team, or by a requisition of one-fifth of Full Members. One month's notice of such meetings shall be given, indicating the nature of the business to be discussed, except that two months' notice must be given for Special Meetings called to consider amendments to these Regulations under Section 11. Proxies may be appointed for such Special Meetings, except that one representative of a Member may not represent more than four Full Members.

- 5.6 Each Full Member shall be entitled to have one representative present and voting at all General or Special Meetings. The representative shall be the CEO of the organisation or their nominee. Up to two voting representatives may be appointed by the AEA.
- 5.7 One quarter of the number of Full Members eligible to attend a General or Special Meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- 5.8 National conferences of Members may be held from time to time and at locations determined by the National Leadership Team. Such conferences will be open to all Members of Missions Interlink and shall encourage networking, fellowship and personal and professional development in line with the objects of Missions Interlink.

6. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM AND ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1 A National Leadership Team whose members are appointed as described below, shall administer the affairs and activities of Missions Interlink.
- 6.2 The National Leadership Team shall consist of at least ten members, five of whom shall be the Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) of Member organisations, elected by the membership at a General Meeting. The balance of members shall be the leaders (or their nominated delegate) of the recognised national ministries and networks (including each state branch as a separate network).
- 6.3 The National Leadership Team shall have the authority to co-opt to its membership up to two additional people with special skills or gifts. Co-opted National Leadership Team members do not have to be staff members (paid or volunteer) of Full or Associate Members. Such appointment shall be subject to reappointment annually but members so appointed shall not serve more than nine years continuously.
- 6.4 For the purposes of state representation, each state branch shall be entitled to appoint one representative to the National Leadership Team.
- 6.5 No one person may exercise more than one vote at National Leadership Team meetings even when representing more than one agency, network and/or ministry.
- 6.6 All members of the National Leadership Team shall retire at each General Meeting and be eligible for renomination. However, no member shall serve more than nine years in succession. The National Leadership Team may appoint CEO's to fill casual vacancies of CEO members of the Leadership Team and recognise changes in leadership of recognised national ministries and networks, such appointments being effective until ratified or otherwise at the next General Meeting.
- 6.7 The definition of CEO in these Regulations is understood to include the Head of Mission Studies (or equivalent) of any member Bible College, where it may be more appropriate for that person to represent the aforesaid College
- 6.8 The National Leadership Team shall meet as it shall determine, but must meet at least twice in each calendar year. Seven Members present shall constitute a quorum.
- 6.9 Immediately following each General Meeting, the National Leadership Team will elect a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson from the ranks of the CEO representatives. It may also elect from its membership a Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as it deems necessary.
- 6.10 Should no CEO on the National Leadership Team be elected to fulfil the role of Chairperson, the Leadership Team may appoint any suitably qualified person to the position of Chairperson, such appointment to be ratified at the next General Meeting following the appointment. The continuing appointment of any person under this Regulation shall be reviewed annually by the Leadership Team and continue to be ratified at all subsequent General Meetings, but shall not be extended for more than nine years continuously.
- 6.11 The National Leadership Team may appoint an executive of up to four members as it thinks fit to deal with urgent matters between meetings.

- 6.12 The chief executive officer of the AEA or their nominee shall be an ex officio, voting member of the National Leadership Team and shall in any case receive notices of all its meetings.
- 6.13 The National Leadership Team is responsible for fulfilling the objects of Missions Interlink, for its operation, and for the control of its finances and assets.
- 6.14 The National Leadership Team may appoint such paid or voluntary staff as may be needed. The location of this secretariat shall be decided by the Leadership Team in consultation with the AEA.
- 6.15 The National Leadership Team may appoint a National Director on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, the appointment to be ratified by the AEA. Whenever this position is vacant, the chief executive officer of the AEA shall act as the National Director of Missions Interlink. The National Director shall be a non-voting member of the National Leadership Team.

7. NETWORKS AND MINISTRIES

- 7.1 The National Leadership Team may recognise national networks and ministries (as described below), each of which may appoint one of their members as a voting delegate to the National Leadership Team of Missions Interlink.
- 7.2 Networks comprise representatives of Member agencies and are formed to share, encourage and work together on activities of mutual interest (examples include Member Care and Short Term Missions).
- 7.3 Specific ministries may be generated by Missions Interlink for the benefit of its Members (examples include Transition Training).
- 7.4 State bodies (comprised of representatives from state based offices of national Members) are recognised as special networks of Missions Interlink and function as branches of the national body. Each state branch may appoint one voting representative to attend meetings of the National Leadership Team of Missions Interlink.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1 **MEMBERSHIP FEES.** All Members of Missions Interlink shall pay an annual membership fee due from 1 July and payable by 31 October each financial year.
- 8.1.1 The structure and amount of membership fees for all categories of Members will be determined annually by the National Leadership Team in the light of the previous year's financial report, proposals for the continuation of existing ministries, state needs, new initiatives and any other factors deemed to be important by the Leadership Team.
- 8.1.2 In the year when General Meetings are held, the membership fee for the next financial year shall be ratified by the General Meeting.
- 8.2 **MANAGEMENT OF FINANCES.** The NLT may operate accounts with recognised banks and financial institutions using the signatures of the following:– up to four members of the National Leadership Team, National Director of Missions Interlink, the chief executive officer of AEA and the Business Manager of AEA, with any two to sign.
- 8.2.1 The Treasurer shall provide a detailed and audited report of all income and expenditure for each financial year ending 30 June.
- 8.2.2 Recognised ministries or networks (including state branches) may generate funds from fees for their future development.

- 8.2.3 Recognised ministries and networks (including state branches) may operate separate bank accounts under terms and conditions approved by the National Leadership Team.
- 8.2.4 It is understood that events and seminars shall normally be budgeted to recover their full operating costs.
- 8.2.5 All income derived by Missions Interlink shall be used to carry out the objects of Missions Interlink.
- 8.2.6 State branches of Missions Interlink may apply (with supporting financial reports and budgets) for annual financial grants from Missions Interlink. These grants if approved by the National Leadership Team, will be paid to the state offices by the end of October each year.
- 8.2.7 Recognised ministries and networks (including state branches) of Missions Interlink shall provide a detailed and audited report of all income and expenditure for their branch (including state networks and ministries) to the National Director of Missions Interlink by 31 August each year.

9. APPLICATION OF INCOME AND PROPERTY

The income and property of Missions Interlink from wherever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives of Missions Interlink and no portion thereof shall be applied or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to the members of Missions Interlink or its National Leadership Team provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officer or servant of Missions Interlink or any other person in return for any goods supplied or services rendered to Missions Interlink or of interest at a rate not exceeding the then current rate per centum per annum charged on bank overdraft to any Member of Missions Interlink or its National Leadership Team or other person who may advance money to Missions Interlink on mortgage or debenture or by way of loan or otherwise or of reasonable or proper rent for premises demised or let by any Member of Missions Interlink but so that no member of the National Leadership Team shall be appointed to any salaried office of Missions Interlink or any office of Missions Interlink paid by fees and that no remuneration or other benefit in money or moneys worth shall be paid or given by Missions Interlink to any member of the National Leadership Team except repayment of out-of-pocket expenses and interest at the rate aforesaid on money lent or reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let to Missions Interlink.

10. WINDING UP

If upon the winding up or disbanding of Missions Interlink there remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same may be retained by the AEA or some equivalent body for the furtherance of fulfilling its global mission concern.

11. AMENDMENTS

Missions Interlink may amend these Regulations at a Special Meeting, provided that such amendments have been approved by a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote (including by proxy) after having been given at least two months' written notice of such amendments. All amendments must be ratified by the Board of the AEA.

Certified to be the Regulations of the Missions Commission of the Australian Evangelical Alliance Inc, adopted on January 26th 1995 and as amended in '98, '01, '03, '04, '05, '07 and '08.