

ALA National AGM 2020
FINAL Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Proposal	Rationale	Proposed wording
<p>1. To amend the Art 12.1 of the Constitution to enable the Association to change its membership categories and fees at a Special General Meeting (in addition to an Annual General Meeting).</p> <p>2. To fix a typographical error in Art 12.1(c)</p>	<p>The rationale behind this change is that it has been impossible for the Association to change membership fees or provide any discount or compassionate reduction in light of the financial impact of COVID-19 on members until an AGM is held.</p> <p>(This is, of course, separate from the question of whether a fee reduction should be made and what that fee reduction might be.)</p> <p>In contrast, many law societies (e.g. the Law Society of NSW, Law Institute of Victoria, Queensland Law Society, Law Society of WA, Law Society of SA, and ACT Law Society) and other organisations have been able to change or discount their relevant fees quickly for the benefit of their members.</p> <p>However, under Art 12.1 of our AALA Constitution, the Association can only change membership categories and fees once a year - at an AGM. This is highly inflexible.</p> <p>It is proposed that flexibility be added by enabling the Association to change its membership categories and fees at a <i>Special General Meeting</i> or Annual General Meeting.</p>	<p>AMEND Article 12.1 as follows:</p> <p>12.1 At an Annual General Meeting <u>or a Special General Meeting</u>, the Association may resolve to:</p> <p>(a) introduce, remove or vary the levels of memberships of the Association for the purpose of prescribing different amounts of the Joining Fee and Annual Membership Fee (which may be based on factors which include (but not limited to) a Member's years of experience, their employment status, whether or not their employer has made a bulk Membership Application, or such other criteria as determined by the Association from time to time);</p> <p>(b) change:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) the Joining Fee; or</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) the Annual Membership Fee, applicable to prospective and existing Members from the previous Financial Year; or</p> <p>(c) <u>change</u> the date for payment of the Annual Membership Fee for the relevant Financial Year.</p>

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	<p>This proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. enables the Association to respond to events such as COVID-19 (and any other unforeseen events) if it is appropriate that membership categories/fees be changed (and the membership constituted at a Special General Meeting considers that is so); and2. importantly, provides a safeguard for members by requiring a Special General Meeting to be held (which has equivalent notice requirements under Art 34 and equivalent quorum under Art 37 to an AGM), rather than leaving it solely within the National Executive Committee's discretion to change membership levels or fees.	
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