

4ZZZ Constitution Review - Feedback on Proposed Changes

In early 2020, a sub-committee of the 4ZZZ Board of Directors undertook a review of the 4ZZZ Constitution. The review culminated in an issues paper, recommending several amendments to ensure our governing document reflects the values of 4ZZZ. Prior to this, the constitution was last updated in 2014.

The sub-committee workshopped the amendments that were later completed pro bono by McCullough Robertson lawyers. The amendments were informed by the principles laid out by 4ZZZ's peak bodies, the [Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission](#) (ACNC) and the [Community Broadcasting Association of Australia](#) (CBAA).

An overview of the proposed changes to the 4ZZZ constitution are stated in the dot points below.

- Updating the language of the document to reflect 4ZZZ's values
 - Removing gendered language (ie references to "he", "him", "she", "her" etc)
 - Expanding list of communities we wish to protect from potential discrimination
 - Provision for directors to allow free memberships to First Nations people in line with 4ZZZ's Pay the Rent plan
- Provision for approving members
 - A simple, best practice clause for members to be officially approved by the board of directors. This clause & process is standard for companies with membership.
- Provision for expelling members, including members right of appeal
 - Introducing a mechanism for the board to expel members who act in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the organisation, with the member in question allowed one appeal of the decision. This clause & process is standard for companies with membership.
- Extension of consecutive terms for board members
 - Proposing that board members can serve a maximum of 5 consecutive terms (current maximum is 3 terms) where a term is 2 years, equalling 10 years on the board in total. This allows for continuity and stability in governance. Note that board members will continue to be elected by members of the organisation every 2 years.
- Changes to Public Fund wording
 - Public fund money (donations) can only be directed to support activities that advance 4ZZZ's 'principal purpose of promoting radio'. The proposed changes simplify the wording in the Public Fund pages by making reference to the Objects in the Constitution rather than attempting to re-word them in this section.

Please submit any feedback or questions to agm@4zzz.org.au by Friday, October 16.

The final proposed changes to the constitution will be put to the membership and voted on in a special resolution at the 2020 Annual General Meeting.