

# **SOUTHLAND GAY and LESBIAN SUPPORT (SGnLS)**

## **RULES**

### **1. NAME**

THE name of the Society is “**Southland Gay and Lesbian Support**” hereinafter called “The Society”

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

“To affirm, empower and inform the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, takataapui, and fa’afa-fine communities of Southland, and those questioning their sexuality; and to promote the acceptance of the diversity of sexual identities and the normalization of same sex relationships.”

### **VALUES**

#### **Community**

We are committed to the holistic wellbeing of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, takataapui, and fa’afa-fine communities.

#### **Biculturalism**

To recognize the Treaty of Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa / New Zealand and to consult with Tangata Whenua / Local Iwi on issues that pertain to Maori.

### **2. OBJECTS**

- i) To establish and maintain a free telephone support and information service; and
- ii) To promote and provide ready access to appropriate contact, support, counselling, health and education services within our own organisation and other services, for with, and on behalf of our Members and communities; and
- iii) To develop the capacity and personal skills of members to more effectively provide support to one another and to increase self efficacy; and
- iv) To provide a safe, accepting and appropriate environment where the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Takataapui, or Fa’afa-fine community can meet for support, information and friendship. This may include face to face meetings for those wishing to participate, with a group for youth (between 16 and 25 years of age) and for adults (25 years of age and over); and
- v) To provide support, information on behalf of the southland non heterosexual community to School Guidance Counsellors, General Practitioners, Tertiary Providers and other members of the community; and
- vi) To take such steps as are practicable to ensure the sustainability and growth of the Society in order to continue delivery of the core functions outlined above; and
- vii) To carry out any other activities consistent with the charitable objects of the Society.

### **3. ACTIVITIES LIMITED TO NEW ZEALAND**

The activities of The Society will be limited to New Zealand

### **4. REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered office of The Society shall be at the offices of Public Health South, Spey Street Invercargill

### **5. OFFICERS AND BOARD**

Board members shall be appointed by members of the Society, according to the guidelines developed by the Board, at each annual general meeting.

Office bearers may hold office for two consecutive years, thereafter standing down for a period of twelve months before being eligible for re-election to office.

A Board of a minimum of five and a maximum of nine members who will be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. At a subsequent meeting of the Board, the following positions shall be appointed from the Board members:

A Chairperson  
A Secretary  
A Treasurer

### **6. POWER TO CO-OPT MEMBERS**

The board shall have the power to co-opt members if it sees fit.

### **7. SUB COMMITTEES**

The Board will have the power to appoint one or more members or other persons to carry out any aspect of its work or special project. Such persons will be responsible to the board.

### **8. POWER TO FILL VACANCIES**

The Board shall have power to fill any vacancy for officers and board until the following Annual General Meeting when the vacancy shall be filled.

### **12. ALTERATION TO RULES**

12.1 The Trustees may, by consensus or pursuant to a motion decided by a two-thirds majority of votes, by supplemental Deed make alterations or additions to the terms and provisions of this Deed provided that no such alteration or addition will:

12.1.1 detract from the exclusively charitable nature of the Society or result in the distribution of its assets on winding up or dissolution for any purpose that is not exclusively charitable; or

12.1.2 be made to the Purpose Clause ( 3 ), the Activities Limited to New Zealand Clause ( 4 ), the Pecuniary Interests Clause ( 9 ) or the Disposition of Surplus Assets Clause ( 15 ) unless it is first approved in writing by the Department of Inland Revenue.

### **13. MEETINGS**

13.1 The procedure for Board meetings will be as follows:

13.1.1 A quorum will be at least half of its members.

13.1.2 If a Trustee, including an office-bearer, does not attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board without leave of absence that member may, at the discretion and on decision of the Board, be removed as a Trustee, and/or from any office of the Trust which she or he holds.

13.1.3 All questions will if possible be decided by consensus. In the event that a consensus cannot be reached then a decision will be made by a majority vote by show of hands, unless otherwise determined by the Board.

13.1.4 If the voting is tied, the motion will be lost.

13.1.5 In the absence of the Chairperson, the Board will elect a person to chair the meeting from among the Trustees present.

### **14. COMMON SEAL**

The common seal of The Society shall be kept at the registered office of the Society. The Secretary shall be responsible for the safe custody and control thereof.

The common seal shall only be affixed where required on any document pursuant to a resolution of the board and in the presence of two of its members, one of whom shall be the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer.

### **15. FINANCIAL**

The financial year shall be from 01 January to 31 December each year

The board shall be responsible for financial matters and all payments shall be approved by the board.

15.1 At the first meeting of the Board in each financial year, the Board will decide by resolution the following:

15.1.1 how money will be received by the Society;

15.1.2 who will be entitled to produce receipts;

15.1.3 what bank accounts will operate for the ensuing year, including the purposes of and access to accounts;

15.1.4 who will be allowed to authorise the production of cheques and the names of cheque signatories; and

15.1.5 the policy concerning the investment of money by the Society, including what type of investment will be permitted.

15.2 The Treasurer will ensure that true and fair accounts are kept of all money received and expended by the Society.

15.3 The Board may arrange for the accounts of the Society for that financial year to be audited by an accountant appointed for that purpose.

15.4The Board may from time to time invest and reinvest in such securities and upon such terms as it shall think fit for the whole or any part of the funds of The Society which may not be required for the immediate business of the Society.

## **16. POWER TO BORROW**

The Society shall have power to borrow or raise money with or without security as shall be approved by resolution of the board.

## **17. TRUSTEE LIABILITY**

No trustee shall be liable for any loss not attributable to his or her own dishonesty or to the wilful commission by him or her of any act known by him or her to be a breach of trust and in particular no Trustee shall be bound to take any proceedings against a co-trustee for any breach or alleged breach of trust committed by such co-trustee.

The Trustees (and each of them individually) shall be indemnified out of Society property against all costs, expenses, claims and liabilities in respect of The Society and under this Constitution, except where caused by the dishonesty of the Trustee or by a wilful breach of the Society by the Trustee.

## **18. WINDING UP**

On the winding up of the Society, or on its dissolution by the Registrar, all surplus assets, after the payment of costs, debts and liabilities will be given to other charitable organisation/s within New Zealand having similar objectives, as the Society may decide. If the Society is unable to make such a decision, the surplus assets will be disposed of in accordance with the directions of the High Court pursuant to section 27 of the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 or subsequent enactment.