



SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc. ARBN 109 811 985

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September 4<sup>th</sup> 2025

**To all members of the Swedenborg Association of Australia**

Dear Members,

I am contacting you on matters regarding the Swedenborg Association of Australia. I'm writing as the current President, as a committee member, but also as a member, like yourselves.

At the most recent committee meeting of the SAA a discussion about the ongoing viability of the Association's committee led to a serious questioning of the future of the SAA itself. At present there seems little prospect of replacing three committee members (including the current President and Treasurer) when they are required to step down at the 2026 AGM by a clause in our constitution limiting members' service on the committee to six years at a time. Changing the constitution was discussed as a way to possibly solve the problem. But the possibility of winding up the SAA altogether was also raised.

After careful discussion, it was agreed that the agenda for the 26 September 2025 AGM will include a critical item: reviewing the viability of filling positions on the committee after the 2026 AGM with new people who can take the organisation forward for the next 6 years. If it becomes clear that too few members are willing to stand for nomination, the AGM will also address the potential dissolution of the SAA. Should there be enough support for winding up, members will be notified, including details of when a formal meeting will be called for a vote on the proposal.

The SAA finds itself in a very different world from the one in which it began back in 1992. At that time, the internet barely existed; today, it shapes how people connect, learn, and build community. Across Australia and around the globe, Swedenborgian websites and online groups now provide spaces for people to engage deeply with Swedenborg's thoughts. With the remarkable changes of the past thirty years, many of the benefits once unique to joining our Association are now available in other forms. Against this backdrop, our steadily declining membership and the increasing difficulty of filling committee positions may be telling us something important: perhaps the Association has fulfilled its role, and it is time to ask whether its purpose has now been served.

So at the 2025 AGM meeting we are looking forward to members contributing to the issue of the long-term viability of filling positions on the committee and whether the Association has served its purpose.

It should be made clear that if the SAA is wrapped up, it does not mean that the Swedenborg Centre in Sydney will be coming to an end. The Swedenborg Centre is actually a separate organisation that works hand in hand with the SAA and the activities based there would continue.

You are welcome to respond by calling the Swedenborg Centre on +61294162812 or via [saa@swedenborg.com.au](mailto:saa@swedenborg.com.au).

Affectionately, and on behalf of the committee,

Julian Duckworth (current President of the Swedenborg Association of Australia)