



We urgently need your vote! (7pm, Wed. 25th Dec, 2024)

The *Swedenborg Association of Australia* is holding a very brief **Special General Meeting** for members at **7pm on Wednesday, 25th December 2024** to approve the inclusion in its constitution document the aims of the SAA as stated in 1992 by its founders. This will allow the SAA to apply for status as a charity, which gives us access to tax exemptions (better use of funds), seek tax-deductible donation status (attracts wider funding), and benefit from financial advantages which enhance funding and reduce operational costs and reduces our reporting needs to various government organisations.

Please don't assume that "they already have plenty of members, so my presence won't matter." Every individual counts—especially you! If you're unable to attend, you can still make a difference by assigning your proxy vote to the President or Public Officer. Simply complete the form below and send it to us via post or email using the contact information on the letterhead above. We deeply appreciate your support in taking this small yet meaningful step to help the organisation prepare for its future endeavours.

Why do we need this?

Since the SAA was born in July 1992, it has operated with the sole purpose of advancing its mission, meaning that it reinvests all its surplus funds, after covering expenses, to further its goals and support its initiatives.

Yet the SAA has never been officially registered as a charity by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission* (the ACNC was only established in 2012). We are now in the process of applying for charitable status with the ACNC who will consider approving the SAA as a charity once we include the "objects" (statements of the mission for which the SAA exists) in the organisation's present governing document, the *SAA Constitution*. These *objects* as detailed below have until now lived in the 1992 *Memorandum of Incorporation*, but that document will no longer be recognised due to changes in the law. Adding the SAA *objects* to the constitution must be approved by a minimum of eight SAA members at a Special General Meeting.

Which is why we are asking a **very brief moment of your time** to attend this **short** online meeting of the SAA on the above date and time to vote on the following special resolution: **"that the objects of the association as stated in the 1992 Memorandum of Incorporation be added with a not-for-profit clause to its current constitution document"**.

Here is a Zoom link to join the meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, 25th December, 2024:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89935897712?pwd=VnZLZGxzK0NCcmJzdVplQkx0OUUc5Zz09>

Why the SAA wants to be registered as a charity?

(SAA history in a nutshell)

When the SAA was born in 1992, it needed a formal legal structure, and so was registered as a company limited by guarantee under the *Corporations (NSW) Act 1990*. This resulted in adding the word "Limited" to the name to indicate limited liability status. The original SAA articles of association contained its purposes ("objects") as defined by the founding members.

Later, in 2004, the NSW Government encouraged associations to become incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1984* to address issues relating to legal liability, improve governance, enable asset ownership, and comply with funding and regulatory requirements. So the SAA adopted a government-recommended new constitution. This SAA constitution is still current today. You can read it here: <https://static.swedenborg.com.au/pdf/constitution.pdf>

The aims ("objects") of the organisation remained in its 1992 *Memorandum of Incorporation* when the 2004 incorporation took place. The 2004 changes prepared the way for the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)* which provided a structure for incorporated associations that was simpler, more affordable and specifically tailored for not-for-

profit organizations, and it eliminated the need for associations to use the "Limited" designation while reducing administrative and financial burdens while still providing the legal protections of incorporation.

Today, since the establishment of the ACNC, a registered not-for-profit which is recognised as a charity gains significant advantages, which have already been mentioned above, such as tax exemptions, eligibility for grants and deductible gift recipient (DGR) status, enhanced public credibility, streamlined access to fundraising licenses, and reduced state reporting requirements by being regulated under the ACNC.

SAA Objects (aims, mission, purpose)

The proposed constitution change is to add the following paragraphs. The objects are taken straight out of the SAA's 1992 foundation document *Memorandum of Incorporation*. The second paragraph makes explicitly clear that we are operating as a not-for-profit:

The objects for which the association is established are:

- (1) Promoting the knowledge of the life and of the scientific, philosophical and theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg by advertising, meetings, lectures, exhibitions, writings, films, tapes, videos and other functions.
- (2) Maintaining Lending and Reference Libraries containing the works of Emanuel Swedenborg and other literature in agreement with, or collateral to, such works.
- (3) Printing, publishing, purchasing, selling and donating the works of Emanuel Swedenborg and other literature in agreement with, or collateral to, such works.
- (4) Establishing, operating and supporting branches and centres of the association in Australia.
- (5) To receive, hold, manage, appropriate, administer, sell, dispose of, and apply property, real or personal, which may at any time be given, devised, bequeathed, or devolved for the objects herein set forth.
- (6) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and the exercise of the powers of the association.

Not for profit

The association is not for profit, and therefore the assets and income of the association shall be applied solely in furtherance of its above-mentioned objects, and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the association except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the association.

We thank you for your continued support of the aims and activities of the SAA.



Julian Duckworth, SAA President

PROXY VOTING FORM

SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Incorporated

Special General Meeting, 7pm, 25th December, 2024

Held at: Swedenborg Centre, 4 Shirley Rd, Roseville NSW 2069.

Only paid-up financial members may vote.

The only motion being voted upon at this meeting is: **that the objects of the association as stated in the 1992 Memorandum of Incorporation be added with a not-for-profit clause to its current constitution document.**

Votes for unnamed proxies will be go to the President's vote.

Appointing a PROXY

Please forward the following details to the Secretary at the Registered Office of 4 Shirley Rd, Roseville NSW 2069 or email the details to saa@swedenborg.com.au

Re: **Proxy appointment, Special General Meeting vote**

I (name)

being a financial member of Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc. appoint

(name of proxy)

(President, if left blank)

(address of proxy)

.....

as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Special General Meeting to be held on 25th December 2024 and at any other adjournment thereof.

Date: / / 2024