

Briefing Paper Constitutional Review 2014 - 2016

1 Introduction

The last major review of the Constitution and Bylaws was completed in 2002 and resulted in agreed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. It is now timely to review the Constitution and Bylaws and we request member Associations to read the Constitution and Bylaws prior to the Melbourne General Meeting.

There will be no motions and procedural resolutions to change the constitution at the 2014 GM.

2 Issues

There are a range of strategic and constitutional matters to consider. These include:

2.1 Elected positions – which are for 4 years and challenges arise when the incumbent seeks election to another position and serves only 2 of the 4 years.

2.2 A request for Regions to change, (eg., to include new regions).

2.3 There are lots of different regulations in Constitution and Bylaws that have been added over the years (it can read like a work in progress rather than a legal document) therefore the overall form of the Constitution needs review.

2.4 Requests for representation and voting rights from international social work groups, for example international indigenous social work.

2.5 We are not following our current constitution in relation to unpaid members – this needs more thought and clarification.

3, Potential new ways of operating

3.1 To be more inclusive with regard to Members that cannot participate in the GM.

3.2 How to strengthen the regions, recognising they are the delivery arms of IFSW

3.3 Taking into account more regions and the implications for the ExCo