

# THE BUDDHIST SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC.) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION

### **Proposed changes to BSWA Constitution, Part 4, Rule 9 – Applying for Membership**

In accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA) and the Rules of the Association, the following item is proposed as a Special Resolution.

The item is to be considered, and if thought fit, to be voted upon and passed as a Special Resolution:

**That we approve and adopt modifications to the BSWA Constitution pertaining to Applying for Membership as described below in the SPECIAL RESOLUTION ANNEXURE.**

**The proposed change would:**

- **remove a requirement introduced by the 2019 Constitution which requires all new membership applications to include a nomination from an existing member.**
- **add wording to accommodate an online membership application form.**

## **SPECIAL RESOLUTION ANNEXURE**

<b>BSWA Constitution: Part 4, Rule 9 – Applying for Membership</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Current Subrule Wording</b>	<b>Proposed Subrule Wording</b>
<b>Subrule 1</b>	A person who wants to become a member must apply in writing to the Association.	A person who wants to become a member must apply in writing to the Association or by submitting an online application form.
<b>Subrule 2</b>	The application must include a member’s nomination of the applicant for membership. The application shall be on such forms as shall be prescribed by the Association from time to time and shall be accompanied by such payment as the Association may from time to time direct.	The application shall be on such forms as shall be prescribed by the Association from time to time and shall be accompanied by such payment as the Association may from time to time direct.
<b>Subrule 3</b>	The application must be signed by the applicant and the member nominating the applicant.	The application must be signed or digitally authorised by the applicant.

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## **SPECIAL RESOLUTION cont'd...**

### **EXPLANATORY INFORMATION**

The BSWA is facing the prospect of declining memberships. A change introduced by the 2019 Constitution's Rule 9 has created a large barrier to entry for prospective new members by requiring **all** new members to seek out and receive a nomination from an existing member. This strongly discourages potential members (particularly from individuals residing overseas or in other states) from applying, as the vast majority of do not know anyone who can nominate them.

The nomination requirement also introduced an administrative burden where volunteer and paid staff hours are used to reach out to applicants and inform them of the requirement, as well as perceived compliance risk of being unwilling to nominate people not well known to the nominator.

We have a massive, worldwide audience of millions per year, many of whom share a strong emotional connection to the BSWA and its teachers from viewing our videos on YouTube and a desire to become members to help support us, but we make it very difficult for them to join.

It is proposed that removing the nomination requirement would help us tap into our global audience; it is expected that membership applications and revenue would increase, particularly from overseas, thus allowing Dhammaloka and the BSWA to better serve our audience here in Perth through increased funding and online volunteers.

As a check and balance, members' applications will still be sent to the committee who can choose to accept or reject applications in the event of a suspicious application.

### **LEGAL**

Information on the Special Resolution and a copy of the proposed revised rules, our constitution, has been prepared and made available on our website at [bswa.org](http://bswa.org). The proposed revised rules comply with Schedule 1 of the Association Act and the WA regulator's office.

The proposed change has been vetted with other WA not-for-profit organisations who adopted a similar rule change as a best practice.