

Guidelines for IRCA-Oceania

We, the people who attended the conference at Atherton, Queensland, Australia, 2nd - 6th July, 2012, agree to the following guidelines:

Preamble:

IRCA-Oceania is a network of people from Australia and New Zealand with a passion for rural communities, based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We share our stories of struggle and our stories of hope, joined by our reliance on the land and sea for our livelihood and by determination and hope because of faith in the triune God.

The organisation's name is International Rural Churches Association-Oceania (IRCA-Oceania). IRCA-Oceania is affiliated with the International Rural Churches Association (IRCA).

1. The Aims and Purposes of IRCA-Oceania:-

1. To encourage sustainable rural communities and practice.
2. To be a voice for the rural community in Australia and New Zealand.
3. To share stories and examples of good practice in rural churches and networks.
4. To relate Christian faith and hope to rural life.
5. To bring a Oceanic perspective to the worldwide work of IRCA.

2. Membership

1. Organisations and people who support the work of IRCA-Oceania and are aged 18 or over can apply to the leadership group to become a member. Members may be required to pay a subscription.
2. Once accepted by the leadership group, membership lasts for 4 years and may be renewed.
3. The leadership group will keep an up-to-date membership list.
4. The leadership group may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of IRCA-Oceania. The member has the right to be heard by the leadership group before the decision is made and can be accompanied by an advocate.

3. Quadrennial General Meeting of Members

1. The QGM must be held every 4 years within the Conference, with 14 days' notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda.
2. There must be at least 10 members present at the QGM.
3. Every member has one vote.
4. The leadership group shall present their report and accounts.
5. The meeting shall appoint an independent examiner for the accounts.
6. Any member may stand for election to the leadership group.
7. Membership shall elect between 4 and 7 people to the leadership group to serve for the next four years. They will retire at the next Conference but may stand for re-election.
8. Minutes must be kept of the QGM.

4. Leadership Group

IRCA-Oceania shall be managed by the leadership group who are appointed at the General Meeting (QGM) of IRCA-Oceania.

5. Carrying out the Purposes:

In order to carry out the purposes, the leadership group have the power to:

1. Raise funds, receive grants and donations,
2. Apply funds to carry out the work of IRCA-Oceania,
3. Co-operate with and support with organisations with similar purposes,
4. Do anything which is not in conflict with these guidelines or the constitution of IRCA, lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes of IRCA-Oceania.

6. Meetings of the Leadership Group

1. The leadership group must hold at least 2 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the QGM they will elect a chair, secretary, treasurer and a representative for the IRCA leadership group who may also be an office bearer of IRCA-Oceania.

2. The leadership group will act by the consensus model of meeting.
3. Meetings may take place face to face, or utilising modern communication methods.
4. At least 3 of the leadership group must be present at meetings to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
5. If a member of the leadership group has a conflict of interest s/he must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
6. During the term of office, the leadership group may appoint up to 2 additional members of the group. They will stand down at the next QGM.
7. The leadership group may make reasonable additional rules to help to run IRCA-Oceania. These rules must not conflict with these guidelines, the constitution of IRCA or the law.
8. Decisions of the leadership group must be ratified at the next QGM.

7. Money and Property

1. Money and property must only be used for purposes of IRCA-Oceania.
2. The leadership group must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by any member on request.
3. Members of the leadership group cannot receive any money or property from IRCA-Oceania, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.
4. Money must be held in IRCA-Oceania's bank account. All cheques must be signed by 2 members of the leadership group.
5. The financial year will be the calendar year.

8. Changing the guidelines

1. Amendments to these guidelines may be made at the quadrennial conference or any other meeting of the leadership group. Such amendments by the leadership group must be ratified at the next quadrennial conference.
2. No change can be made that goes against the preamble, the purposes of IRCA-Oceania, the constitution of IRCA, or the law.
3. The leadership group may call a General Meeting to consult the membership on changes to the guidelines.

