



**CONSTITUTION OF  
MESSAGE NEW ZEALAND (NZ) INCORPORATED  
September 2007**

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## **1. THE NAME AND NATURE OF THIS ASSOCIATION IS**

- 1.1. **Message New Zealand**, also referred to in this document as “the Association”.
- 1.2. The Association is an incorporated society subject to the Incorporated Societies Act of parliament.

## **2. THE PURPOSE and MISSION of the Association**

- 2.1. To promote health and wellness in New Zealand (Aotearoa) through quality massage, and advocate the successful development of the association.

## **3. THE CORE VALUES of the Association**

- 3.1. We believe in and support; integrity, choice, competency, effectiveness, quality, inclusiveness, responsibility and growth.

## **4. THE OBJECTIVES of the Association**

- 4.1. Promote the profession of massage therapy.
- 4.2. Encourage high standards of knowledge and competency among the members.
- 4.3. Encourage research and the dissemination of information pertaining to massage therapy
- 4.4. Provide rules of conduct and standards of practice and seek to ensure that the conduct of the profession is regulated by the members.
- 4.5. Ensure a register is kept of members and a disciplinary mechanism is established and maintained by the profession.
- 4.6. Foster the quality and delivery of massage training in New Zealand.
- 4.7. Foster and promote ongoing training and mentoring to members.
- 4.8. Publish Journals and other publications.
- 4.9. Co-operate and become members of, or affiliate with any other incorporated or unincorporated organisation, company, educational institution, regulatory board, or any organisation which in any way promotes the objectives of MNZ.
- 4.10. Foster, support and protect the interests of the members of MNZ.

4.11. Make arrangements with any trade, business or profession for the provision to the members of any special benefits, privileges and advantages and in particular to goods and services.

4.12. Lobby Governments and regulators in pursuit of the objectives.

4.13. Improve the social and economic position of members.

## 5. FINANCIAL YEAR

5.1. The financial year for the Association shall end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## 6. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

6.1. The Association shall consist of Students or Affiliates, Associate, Certified Massage Therapists (CMTs), Remedial Massage Therapists (RMTs) , RMTs (Specialisation), and Honorary Life Members.

6.2. Students or Affiliates as set out in Rule 2.

6.3. Associates , as set out in Rule 3.

6.4. Certified Massage Therapists as set out in Rule 4

6.5. Remedial Massage Therapists as set out in Rule 5.

6.5.1. Where a Remedial Massage Therapist specialises in a chosen field allied to massage therapy, they may use the title Remedial Massage Therapist (Specialisation).

6.5.2. Remedial Massage Therapists (Specialisation) are to develop minimum standards from their subgroup, and are to present these to the Executive Committee .

6.6. Life membership as set out in Rule 6.

## 7. THE METHOD BY WHICH PERSONS CAN JOIN THE ASSOCIATION

7.1. Persons can join the Association by Application using the Association's application forms. See rules 1,2,3 ,4,5 ,6 and 7 and

7.1.1. Paying the appropriate fee to become either Students or Affiliates, Associate, Certified Massage Therapist, or a Remedial Massage Therapist.

7.1.2. Student, Associate, and Certified and Remedial Massage Therapist completing a statutory declaration regarding any prior criminal convictions recorded against them and any previous disciplinary proceedings taken against them in relation to their occupation as a massage therapist.

7.2. An application from a person with a criminal record shall be considered by the Executive on its merits. Failure by the applicant to disclose details of any such criminal record shall result in automatic rejection of the application or their membership.

- 7.3. Life Membership may be awarded to individuals for outstanding contribution to the field of therapeutic massage and / or the Association. Total number of life members must not exceed 12 in number. Refer to rule 1 of the rules of the Association.

## 8. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 8.1. All persons on applying to join the Association shall, on acceptance, pay a fee according to membership level. The Executive shall set fees for each financial year.
- 8.2. Any person joining the Association six months or more into the current year shall pay a percentage of the yearly subscription fee as set by the Executive.

## 9. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 9.1. Any person whose subscription is in arrears for a period in excess of three months shall cease to be a member of the Association.
- 9.2. Any member found guilty of misconduct, after investigation as detailed in Rule 14 of the Rules, and any member found to have breached the MNZ Code of Ethics, may be subject to dismissal from the Association.
- 9.3. Any person may resign from the Association at any time. Resignations must be in writing, sent to the Executive Secretary.

## 10. COMPOSITION OF THE MNZ EXECUTIVE

- 10.1. The MNZ Executive shall be made up of:
- 10.1.1. One President, who shall attend to all governance issues of MNZ, chair executive meetings, supervise officers and make a yearly report. This position shall be open to all current CMT and RMT members
- 10.1.2. One Vice President, who shall preside over meetings in the absence of the President, assist the President with matters pertaining to the Association and be responsible for handling complaints received by the Executive Secretary. This position shall be open to all current members except associates, affiliates and students
- 10.1.3. One Education Officer, responsible for , responsible for liaising with Education providers in New Zealand, and for on-going professional development opportunities for members of MNZ. This position shall be open only to Remedial Massage Therapists whose membership is current who have education experience. The Education Officer shall also chair meetings of the Education Committee (4 elected at AGM) whose members shall be restricted to Certified and Remedial Massage Therapists whose membership is current
- 10.1.4. One Treasurer, responsible for overseeing strategic financial planning, budgeting, income and expenditure of MNZ. To work in conjunction with the Executive Secretary for preparing a monthly financial report to the executive and an annual financial report to the membership.
- 10.1.5. One Publicity Officer, responsible for chairing a *publicity committee* (4 elected at

AGM) for the promotion of the aims and objectives, compilation of articles, and publishing of a quarterly magazine for MNZ.

- 10.1.6. One Iwi Officer, responsible for advising the Executive board on cultural safety and awareness, Iwi welfare and wellbeing, complaints, and organising powhiri at conferences
- 10.1.7. **One Regional officer** responsible for; overseeing, managing and chairing nine *regional representatives* (elected at AGM) co-ordinating the flow of information between regional meetings / peer support / peer mentoring groups and the executive, encourage and support regional *monthly* meetings and local training events. See rule
- 10.2. In addition to the above Officers, the Executive may co-opt any further members as required, for the purpose of forming sub-committees or for other purposes as determined by the Executive.
- 10.3. With the exception of those under an employment agreement with MNZ, the officers of the Executive committee shall hold office for a period of 12 months and will be elected at the AGM by nominations which are to be duly seconded and if necessary by an election taking place. The candidate receiving the most votes from the members present at the AGM will be elected.
- 10.4. In the event of an Executive member resigning or being expelled from the Association, a temporary replacement may be appointed at an Executive meeting and shall hold office until the next AGM.
- 10.5. The executive shall advertise for and appoint a paid **Executive Secretary** to oversee the day to day management functions of MNZ. This position may be as a part time or full time permanent employee of MNZ with an employment agreement signed by the President of the association.
- 10.5.1 The Executive Secretary will report to the President and members of the executive as per the terms of their employment agreement.

## **Clause 11 COMMITTEES of MNZ**

- 11.1 An **Education Committee** is to be established annually at AGM in accordance with Rule 8.1.  
Chaired by the Education Officer
- 11.2 A **Publicity Committee** is to be established annually at the AGM in accordance with rule 8.2  
Chaired by the Publicity Officer
- 11.3 A **Regional Representatives committee** is be established annually at the AGM in accordance with rule 8.3 Chaired by the Regional Officer

## 11. POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

- 11.1. It is expressly directed that the Executive shall be entrusted with and may exercise the following powers and duties:
- 11.2. To execute and carry out all matters and things enumerated in Clause 4 of the Constitution.
- 11.3. To make such decisions, regulations and standing orders as may be deemed necessary for the efficient management of the affairs and business of the Association, provided that the same are not inconsistent with the Constitution.
- 11.4. The Rules may be altered and brought into effect by executive decision but must be confirmed at the next General Meeting.
- 11.5. To appoint one or more sub-committees for any purpose, within the constitution, and to delegate any necessary powers to such sub-committee.
- 11.6. To adjudicate and make decisions in accordance with Rules 12 and 14 of the Rules of the Association.
- 11.7. Affiliation with other Associations shall be decided upon by the Executive.
- 11.8. The Executive may advertise for and appoint any other part time or full time permanent employees, or paid contractors as deemed necessary to carry out the objectives of the Association.

## 12. MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 12.1. An annual general meeting (AGM) is to take place once every 12 months, chaired by the President, or the Vice President, or by any other person appointed by the Executive.
  - 12.1.1. The date, time and venue of the AGM shall be decided by the Executive.
  - 12.1.2. A quorum made up of 25% of the membership or 30 members, whichever is the lesser, is necessary for an AGM to take place.
  - 12.1.3. Members shall be advised of the date, time, venue, agenda and any remits of the next AGM by electronic means or newsletter at least 30 days before AGM and also by a special notice of reminder.
- 12.2. A Special General Meeting may be called at the request of the President, or by the Vice-president in the absence of the President, or upon the written request of at least six CMTs or RMTs:
  - 12.2.1. At least thirty days' notice of a Special General Meeting shall be given to the members of the Association
  - 12.2.2. Members of the Association shall be notified of any Special General Meeting by way of electronic means or postal mail
  - 12.2.3. A Special General Meeting can be conducted by electronic means. For example teleconference.

12.3. An Executive meeting is to be held monthly or as decided by the Executive:

12.3.1. A quorum of five is necessary for an Executive meeting to take place

12.3.2. An Executive meeting can be conducted by electronic means. For example teleconference.

### 13. BUSINESS OF THE AGM

13.1. Association business conducted at the AGM shall include and is not limited to:

13.2. Annual reports from the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Publicity Officer, Education Officer, Iwi Officer, Regional Officer and Executive Secretary

13.3. Voting of incoming Executive members.

### 14. VOTING AT MEETINGS

14.1. Members co-opted to sub-committees shall have no voting rights at Executive meetings, but shall have voting rights at the meeting of the sub-committee.

14.2. Members who are co-opted to full Executive status shall have voting rights at Executive meetings.

14.3. Voting at Executive meetings shall be on the basis of one vote per Executive member, except that the Executive Secretary shall not have voting rights at these meetings.

14.4. Current financial members who are not Certified or Remedial Massage Therapists shall not have voting rights at AGMs or Special General Meetings

14.5. Voting rights at AGM or Special General Meeting are to be one vote per Certified or Remedial Massage Therapist, by a show of hands or by secret ballot.

14.6. Proxy voting at AGM or SGM is only permitted on remits circulated at least 30 days prior to AGM or SGM.

#### 14.7. Postal Voting

14.7.1. This can apply to any meeting that requires a quorum

14.7.2. If a quorum is not present then the meeting shall be considered to be adjourned and shall be clearly noted in the minutes. After the members present are informed of this, all decisions from that point on will need to be ratified by postal ballot or (electronic) and the meeting will continue

14.7.3. All executive members will remain in office until the result of the ballot is released

- 14.7.4. Within thirty days of the meeting the Secretary shall circulate the minutes with the voting forms to all voting members
- 14.7.5. The voting form shall allow voting on each decision.
- 14.7.6. The voting forms shall be returned to the Secretary within thirty days of being circulated
- 14.7.7. The Secretary shall announce the results.

## **15. THE METHODS BY WHICH THE CONSTITUTION CAN BE ALTERED OR ADDED TO**

- 15.1. If it arises that the constitution needs to be altered or added to, this can be done at an Annual or Special General Meeting.

## **16. NOTICES OF MOTION**

- 16.1. Any financial member of the Association is able to propose a remits on an issue before an Executive meeting or an Annual General Meeting of the Association, by sending notice of that issue by post or electronic means to the Executive Secretary at least 60 days prior to AGM meeting.
- 16.2. Where matters of urgency arise, the Executive may, at its discretion, waive the 60 days requirement of notice for issues applicable to Executive meetings or Annual General Meetings.

## **17. THE CONTROL AND USE OF THE COMMON SEAL OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- 17.1. The common seal of the Association shall not be set or affixed to any document whatsoever unless in the presence of the President and one other Executive member, and then only pursuant to an order or minute entered in the minute book of the Association.
- 17.2. The seal shall be kept by the Executive Secretary or other person as directed by the Executive.
- 17.3. Notwithstanding anything stated in Clause 19.1 of the Constitution, the Executive Secretary may apply the common seal of the MNZ to applications to join the New Zealand Charter of Natural Health Practitioners Inc.

## **18. PERSONAL BENEFITS TO MEMBERS**

- 18.1. No member of the organisation or any person associated with a member shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the organisation in respect of the payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person of any income, benefit or advantage whatsoever.
- 18.2. Any such income paid shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in an arm's length transaction (being the open market value).
- 18.3. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document, and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

## **19. THE CONTROL OF INVESTMENT FUNDS**

- 19.1. The Executive Secretary shall oversee all incoming monies, issue receipts and deposit funds in the bank account of the Association.
- 19.2. The signature of the Executive Secretary, along with that of the President or one person as nominated by the Executive, is required on all cheques issued by the Association.
- 19.3. Investment of any surplus funds shall be decided upon at an Executive meeting.

## **20. THE POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION TO BORROW MONEY**

- 20.1. The powers of the Association to borrow money shall be decided upon at an Executive meeting, AGM, or a Special General Meeting.
- 20.2. Notwithstanding any restriction on voting set out in Clause 15 of the Constitution, all financial members shall be entitled to vote on this issue at this meeting on the basis of one vote per member.
- 20.3. Proxy voting shall be allowed for people unable to attend this meeting.

## **21. GRANTS POLICY**

- 21.1. Refer to Rule 11 of the Rules of the Association.

## **22. CODE OF ETHICS**

- 22.1. All members are required to abide by the Association Code of Ethics.
- 22.2. Any changes to this Code shall be made at the AGM or Special General Meeting by majority vote.

## **23. INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

- 23.1. Should a difficulty arise in the interpretation of the constitution, such difficulty shall be referred to the Executive for discussion. Their interpretation shall be final and binding on all concerned.
- 23.2. Where the Executive is unable to reach a final decision in the matter, independent legal advice is to be obtained, and the decision of the legal advisor shall be final and binding on all concerned.

## **24. LOGO AND INITIALS**

- 24.1. The Association logo and initials shall be available for use by Certified , Remedial Massage Therapists , Remedial Massage Therapists ( Specialisation) and life members of Massage New Zealand.

## **25. COMPLAINTS OFFICER**

- 25.1. The Executive shall appoint a Complaints Officer, who shall be an independent and a competent authority.
- 25.2. The Complaints Officer may advise the executive on the process for handling complaints, and the findings and recommendations from the investigation of complaints.

## **26. COMPLAINTS FROM MEMBERS REGARDING CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

- 26.1. Refer to Rule 12 of the Rules of the Association.

## **27. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST MEMBERS**

(To be read in conjunction with Rule 14 of the Rules of the Association).

- 27.1. A member found by competent authority to have been misrepresenting him/herself as an Officer of the Association shall be reprimanded in such a manner as the Executive decides. A further similar offence shall result in dismissal from the Association and recall of all Association documents.
- 27.2. A member found by competent authority to have been practising erotic massage in the confines of a massage practice and as a member of the Association will forthwith be dismissed from the Association with forfeiture of all certificates issued by the Association.
- 27.3. A member who has been found to have sexually abused a client will forthwith be dismissed from the Association with forfeiture of all certificates issued by the Association.
- 27.4. A student member may not advertise in any paper, journal or publication purporting membership of the Association as a qualified massage practitioner. A student breaching

this clause will have the issue of any membership or certificate delayed by six months from the time of normal issue.

27.5. A member found to have committed a minor indiscretion will be subject to a fine fixed by the Executive; and for a second offence of a similar nature, committed within two years of committing the first offence, shall be subject to a further fine fixed by the Executive. A third offence of similar nature within two years of committing the second offence shall be deemed by the Association to be an offence justifying dismissal of the member and recall of all certificates issued by the Association.

27.6. Notwithstanding the above, any contravention of the Code of Ethics may be constituted as misconduct, as stated in Clause 9 of the Constitution, and may result in suspension or cancellation of membership of the Association, as may be decided by the Executive.

**28. MESSAGE NEW ZEALAND ASSESSMENT FOR RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) PURPOSES**

28.1. Refer to Rule 15 of the Rules of the Association.

**30. MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THIS CONSTITUTION**

30.1 If any constitutional matters arise that are not covered by this constitution, the Executive shall make a decision for confirmation at the first General Meeting thereafter.

**31 DISSOLUTION**

The Association shall be dissolved if, at an annual general meeting or Special General Meeting of which due notice is given, a majority of those voting pass a resolution to this effect.

Upon dissolution, any money or property remaining shall, after all outstanding debts have been paid and liabilities met, be given or transferred to some other Association in New Zealand having similar objectives, at the discretion of the Executive.

**SIGNED** by )  
Member ) \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNED** by )  
Member ) \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNED** by )  
Member ) \_\_\_\_\_