



## Amendment to NSW Constitution

At our first Zoom AGM on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August** there was significant amendment to the NSW Constitution approved by voting members.

The NSW Board has been concerned about the declining membership which is principally been due to an aging membership and the reduction of Australia's Armed Forces being engaged in any large-scale military conflicts over the last few decades. To keep the organisation relevant and to continue with its objects and purpose, at a Board Meeting on 25 April 2020, the Board discussed expanding membership to family members and others, what it would look like and the rights and obligations of those members.

At a Board meeting on 25 June 2020, the Board, in accordance with the power provided to it under clause 1.1 of the Constitution resolved to amend the definition of the expression 'War Widow' to read as follows:

*“War Widow means a person whose spouse or partner:  
was a member of the Australian Defence Force or that of an ally; and  
is missing or deceased.”*

### Notes:

*'person' includes both female and male.*

*'spouse or partner' is intended to be broadly inclusive.*

*'ally' is intentionally broad; and*

*'missing' is intended to include both missing in action or missing post discharge from the ADF.*

The new definition will expand the scope of the organisations ability to provide support to a broader number of individuals who have lost a spouse who is or was a member of the Australian Defence Force or allied forces. The change is also considered to bring the organisation up to date with contemporary society.

As a second stage in the process to open the membership base, the Board at our AGM obtained the approval of the Members to amend clause 4.3(a) of the Constitution as follows:

### 4.3 Application

*(a) Any individual who is:*

- i. a War Widow,*
- ii. a person who identifies as family of a past or current member of the Australian Defence Force,*
- iii. a person who identifies as family of a past or current member of an allied defence force,*
- iv. a person who is a past or current member of the Australian Defence Force,*
- v. a person who is a past or current member of an allied defence force, or*
- vi. in the opinion of the Board, is supportive of the objects of the company may apply to be a member of the Company.”*

This amendment applies from the conclusion of the 2020 Annual General Meeting. Expanding the Member base will enable the organisation to continue to provide its essential support and services.