



# RSEA

**CONSTITUTION  
CHANGES AND UPDATE  
AUGUST 2024**

# OVERVIEW

- Purpose of meeting.
- July constitution consultation - recap.
- Statistics and feedback.
- Key changes.
- Next steps.
- Timeline.

# JULY CONSULTATION STATISTICS

Constitution consultation **5 July** until **25 July 2024**.

- **236** people attended eight **in-person** sessions held around the country (Dargaville, Auckland, Hamilton, Whakatane, Hastings, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin).
- **129** people attended 10 **online** sessions.
- Total of **365** people engaging in person and online with the constitution consultation process through the information and question sessions.

# JULY CONSULTATION STATISTICS

Resulting in:

- Total of **69** written feedback/submissions via [review@rsa.org.nz](mailto:review@rsa.org.nz) Made up of: - RSAs (39) - Individuals (23) – Affiliates (7)
- Approx. **101** individual RSAs engaged with the process

**Excellent** engagement but feedback from many requested more time.

# WE HAVE HEARD YOU....

## **RNZRSA Constitution** feedback extended until **31 August**.

- This gives RSAs/Affiliates/Individuals another month to feedback on the draft **RNZRSA Constitution**.
- This also provides an opportunity to counter the generic and copied feedback that is out there.

### **Noting:**

- Communications on the RNZRSA website will be updated to clarify points that have already come up in the July period. Check out the FAQs on the dedicated page.

# WE HAVE HEARD YOU....

- We are happy to take constructive feedback and discussions, and these **are resulting in changes** to the draft constitution **for the better** eg: correction of error 12.2 (the Board and the Forum will consult on the bylaws); the Affiliates will elect their own representative; for clarity the Women's section will have a representative on the Forum.
- Extension gives more time for the Constitutional Working Group to consider/analyse feedback.
- As we have always communicated, we are after **specific feedback** related to sections and clauses, **not generic**, non-specific comments..

# LET'S REMEMBER THE BIG PICTURE

The **RNZRSA Constitution** is the governing document for RNZRSA and its member associations and Life members.

- We grateful for the genuine engagement and feedback we have received to date.
- RNZRSA has invested resources and legal advice to get this key document ready for adoption in 2024 and to enable RSAs to be ready in plenty of time for re-registration using the Model constitution.
- The purpose of the Constitution project is about legal compliance **and** an accurate recording of RNZRSA and the way the organisation functions in 2024 and beyond.



# LET'S LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE

The draft **Model Constitution for RSA Associations** refers to RSAs and their individual members.

- Before the Model can be finalised the **RNZRSA Constitution** needs to be finalised.
- **RNZRSA** is paying the legal fees for the development of the Model Constitution – it does not cost the RSAs.
- The CWG will be rolling out workshop sessions for the **Model Constitution** from **September** onwards.
- Re-registration for RSAs is **5 April 2026**.





# WHAT WE WON'T BE COVERING?

We have focussed in on the draft **RNZRSA Constitution** in this process to date:

- **Bylaws** are not included (these will be completed in consultation with the Board and Forum once the RNZRSA Constitution is confirmed).
- **Objects and Purposes** – this section is a body of work in its own-right and will be looked at in 2025.
- Any matters raised relating to the **mandatory clauses** of the constitution are going to be difficult to change because of the legal requirements.

# WHY IS THE CHANGE NECESSARY?

The redrafted **RNZRSA Constitution** is adjusted for:

- legislative requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and to tidy up confusing language.

There are **three** over arching reasons for change in the draft constitution.

They are:

- legally required
- clarity and anomalies
- improvement

(Note: these are clearly outlined in the Constitution Changes Document)

**Most elements of the constitution remain the same.**



# KEY DOCUMENTS

There are three documents for this consultation process. They are:

- The **RNZRSA Constitution Changes Document (5 July 2024)**.
- The draft **RNZRSA Constitution**.
- The draft **Model Constitution for RSA Associations**.

*All documents are uploaded onto the RNZRSA website – all developed with legal advice.*

*Note: for content and background check out [The Constitution: Background Information](#) (June 2024).*



# KEY CHANGES (1)

First and foremost, the RNZRSA Board and the Constitutional Working Group embrace the following values for establishing relationships and realigning the RSA.

**Hono** - Connect

**Hihiri** - Inspire

**Aroha** – Respect

In the spirit of this commitment, we will be naming our **Constitution:**

**Te Ratonga Kahui Morehu a Tu o Aotearoa | Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association.**



## KEY CHANGES (2)

- Kaumatua on the Board – full member (Section 6, Governance, Clause 6.5)
- The role of National President is solidified/clarified to legally meet the requirements of the Act. NP will be on the Board. (Section 6, Governance, Clause 6.1)
- The RNZRSA Board and Forum will remain. (Section 4, RNZRSA Structure, Clause 4.1).
- The constitutional sections (Section 5 and related clauses) around Duties of an Officer will be made compliant with the new Act.
- The Disputes Resolution process will now sit mainly in the constitution to meet legal requirements. (Section 9 and Schedule 2).

Note: there will be similar changes in the draft Model Constitution.



# KEY CHANGES (3)

- Provisions for online voting - taking out the need for proxies. (Section 10, General Meetings of RNZRSA, Clause 10.11A)
- One vote per RSA Association (Section 10, General Meetings of RNZRSA, Clause 10.11).
- The Incorporated Societies Act provides multiple opportunities to give more clarity and fix anomalies e.g.:
  - The current Constitutions confuse a number of key points including:
    - i. Members of members.
    - ii. National Conference, National Council, AGM.
- Any Governance or operational matters relating to RSA Associations will be in the Model Constitution.

# NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

## Timeline Recap

- Consultation period: **8 July** now extended to **31 August**.
- Encourage exec committees to view constitution change documents.
- Send feedback to [review@rsa.org.nz](mailto:review@rsa.org.nz)
- Feedback template is available on RNZRSA website.
- August online sessions – 6 August, 20 August and 27 August (6-7pm)
- Model Constitution workshops – **September** onwards.
- National Council **16 and 17 October**.
- Intention to call a Special General Meeting (SGM) end November focused on RNZRSA Constitution.
- Re-registration for RSAs – **5 April 2026**.

**PATAI/QUESTIONS?**

