Diabetes SA Constitution Update — Member FAQs

1. Why is the Constitution being updated?

A Constitution should be reviewed periodically, to ensure it's up to date with how the organisation operates and stays aligned with current legislation. Ours was last updated in 2023, and this year's review is part of that ongoing process.

2. How many changes have been made to the Constitution in this review and when would it come into effect?

There were quite a few changes this year because our review found repeated content, along with several references that hadn't kept pace with how we operate today. Should members agree with the changes at the AGM, they would come into effect from 23 October 2026.

3. What are the changes?

Membership categories

We have proposed a different membership model that recognises the changes in our wider community and the fact we want South Australians living with or at risk of diabetes to stay connected, even if life and cost of living pressures exist.

This change I am about to explain will be rolled out in stages so keep an eye on your emails and the website.

We have proposed a broadened membership category. Retaining individual membership tiers and families as well as concession

Let's go through what each one includes.

- General Member becomes Complete Member nothing changes if you're a current member, other than the name. This is our comprehensive membership: a 1 or 2-year subscription, available for individuals or the whole family. It includes full access to face-to-face education and events, expert speaker events, a 20% consultation discount, 25% off retail with free shipping over $60, free sharps disposal, free hearing checks, and free wills and estate planning support. Complete Members have full voting rights (once you turn 18) and are eligible to stand for the Board.
- Importantly the Board have endorsed that all under 18's are free, yet can access complete membership. This is designed to help our youngest living with diabetes and their families.
- Community Member — this is a new free membership tier, and this is all about connection and ensuring everyone has access to a trusted source of information. This entitles you to receive eNewsletters, exclusive recipes, limited access to online courses, and a one-off 10% discount on a future subscription. It doesn't include voting rights or Board eligibility.
- Lite Member — another new option and our affordable entry point to membership, offered as a one-year subscription for individuals. It's a step up from Community, offering access to full online courses, the digital version of MyLife Magazine, support line access, a 10% consultation discount, and 10% off retail orders. Lite Members do have voting rights but are not eligible to stand for the Board unless they upgrade their membership

- Health Professional Members will have voting rights and Board eligibility under the new Constitution. This membership renews annually and is built around supporting evidence-based clinical practice with full access to online courses and resources, exclusive recipes, and 25% off retail with free shipping,
- Life Member will stay the same — a one-off lifetime payment that offers the same full benefits as a Complete Member, for life, with full voting rights, Board eligibility, all the discounts and inclusions.
- Honorary Member also remains the same — this level of membership isn't something you apply for; it's awarded by the Board to individuals recognised for outstanding contributions to diabetes awareness and community impact. It offers full benefits, voting rights and only if you were to join the board would you need to become a complete member for the period of the time as a director.
- Corporate Member becomes Commercial Retail Member — this is just a name change, and remains a non-voting category for businesses and organisations rather than individuals.

Full details on pricing and inclusions will be available on our website. This update brings us in line with current rules for charities, removes outdated detail, and makes the language simpler and easier to understand.

Fees and subscriptions

We've removed the finer detail on fees from the Constitution, such as payment deadlines and moved these into the Board policy.

Renewing, ending or suspending a membership

This is one of the most important updates for members. Previously, the Constitution didn't outline what process the Board had to follow if it ever needed to suspend or end someone's membership. The new Constitution puts a clear, fair process in place.

Meetings — attending and being notified of the AGM or special meetings as a member

28% of our members live outside metropolitan Adelaide, so making it easier to participate from where you live was a big focus of this update. The new Constitution allows meetings to be held online, or by video or phone, with online voting and the ability to verify who you are. We can also now notify you of meetings by SMS or other electronic methods, not just by post or in the newspaper.

The Board - titles, structure and eligibility

Some of the Board titles are changing to reflect modern terminology:

- What was called a ‘Board Member’ is now a ‘Board Director’;
- The ‘President’ becomes the ‘Chair’;
- We're moving from two Vice-Presidents to one Deputy Chair.

Beyond the naming, two things have changed in how the Board operates:

- Who's eligible to serve: the Constitution now spells out, category by category, who can nominate for and sit on the Board. Complete, Lite, Life, Honorary and Health Professional Members are all Board-eligible; Community Members and Commercial Retail Members are not.

- As protection for members standing for election previously, the Constitution didn't specify any grounds for the Board to reject a nomination. With the new change, the Board can only reject a nomination if

the person genuinely isn't eligible, or the nomination itself is invalid. It can't knock back a valid nominee for any other reason.

Board size and skills

The Board will still be made up of between 5 and 9 elected Directors, voted in by members. The Board will be able to appoint up to two extra Directors if there's a specific skill or experience gap that would benefit the organisation — for example, someone with extensive legal or financial expertise. This can only ever add up to two extra people, so the Board can never be larger than 11, and these appointees can be removed by the Board at any time, unlike elected Directors.

Board tenure

Previously, the Constitution locked in a maximum of 9 years for any Board Director, made up of three 3-year terms, with a mandatory 3-year break before returning. That fixed limit has been removed from the Constitution and will now be set by Board policy.

Streamlining and modernising

A number of clauses about day-to-day operations have been removed from the Constitution. These includethe complaints process being moved to a Complaints and Grievances Policy and the rule about physically signing documents with a seal has been removed altogether, since we now execute documents electronically.

4. Where can I read the full proposed Constitution?

The full new Constitution is available to read on our website.

5. Who do I contact if I have questions, or want to have a say before the AGM?

If you have any questions, you can contact our Corporate Services and Facilities Manager via email on rebeccat@diabetessa.com.au or via mobile on 0499 223 357.

6. What happens at the AGM?

At the AGM, the Chair will bring the proposed Constitution to the meeting and move that it be put to a vote for approval. As adopting a new Constitution is a Special Resolution under the Associations Act, it needs at least three quarters of eligible Members present and voting to vote in favour for it to be approved.

7. What happens if members don't approve the changes?

If the changes aren't approved, our current 2023 Constitution stays in place and continues to apply and further consultation will occur over the next 12 months to reconsider any changes not approved.

8. How do I register to attend or vote at the AGM?

An email was sent out to members on 20th August, with a second to be sent on 10th September. These contain a link where you can RSVP your attendance or call our team on 8234 1977 to RSVP over the phone or you can check out this QR code.