

LoveOzYA Constitution and Charter

– Explanation on Changes

What's happening?

The LoveOzYA Committee is formalising the organisation by registering it as a non-profit, charitable Company Limited by Guarantee.

Why is this happening?

LoveOzYA has existed as a grassroots movement, and a network, since it was conceived four years ago. It has also developed a formal committee and Charter to help organise its work and achieve its purpose.

To ensure the continued success of LoveOzYA long into the future, we will need to develop a sustainable business model. Registering as a non-profit charitable company gives LoveOzYA access to a range of partnerships, grants and fundraising opportunities that are more difficult as an unincorporated collective. It also helps us with practical services, like opening a bank account!

What is changing?

In practical day-to-day terms, not a great deal! However, registering as a company requires the creation of a Constitution which sets out rules for the organisation's governance.

But we already have the LoveOzYA Charter...

We're very fortunate the work of previous committees in developing the LoveOzYA Charter has put us on a sound footing to develop our Constitution. A number of the provisions in the existing Charter can be directly imported into Constitution, such as the role and structure of the committee, how members are recruited, meeting frequency, etc. Other parts of the Charter will be added as LoveOzYA by-laws or policies because they relate to common practices or positions that are easier to change and update without requiring formal changes to the organisation's legal constitution.

What else?

In reviewing the needs of the organisation, the LoveOzYA Committee has proposed some changes to the existing Charter, and hence drafted these into the new Constitution, and invites feedback on these changes. These are highlighted in the draft provided.

To ensure best practice, this Constitution draft has been adapted from the template constitution provided by the Australian Charities and Nonprofit Commission:

<https://www.acnc.gov.au/tools/templates/constitution-charitable-company-limited-guarantee>

What do you need from me?

Anyone who considers themselves a part of the wider LoveOzYA network – reader, author, publisher, bookseller, librarian, arts professional – is welcome to provide us with feedback on these changes. After all, these governance documents are an expression of the values and aspirations for LoveOzYA in our community.