



CONSTITUTION

(Revised August 2026)

1. NAME OF ASSOCIATION

The association is called Conference of Spiritual Directors, Australia hereafter referred to as CSD. It is a voluntary unincorporated not-for-profit association of persons within Australia and Oceania engaged in the ministry of spiritual direction. Its origin and its philosophy stem from the contemplative approach to spiritual direction formerly practised and taught at the Centre for Religious Development in Cambridge, MA. USA.

2. PHILOSOPHY OF THE ASSOCIATION

The philosophy of the Association is grounded in the following principles:

- a) The ministry of spiritual direction assists individuals in their human experience of the Divine, through contemplative listening and wise accompaniment.
- b) The spiritual journey is unique to each person who may present as a member of any one of a number of spiritual traditions.
- c) Spiritual direction is more about *experiencing* God rather than engaging in theological or religious discussions *about* God. It is concerned with what is real, personal and important in a person's everyday life.
- d) The use of the word "direction" is not about telling someone what to do or how to be. Neither is it about teaching or indoctrination. Spiritual direction is a "contemplative listening" during which the "director" creates a safe space for someone to share her/his/they inner landscape accompanying them to discover God's active presence in their life.
- e) This ministry is a sacred trust, calling for the highest standards for formation, practice and accountability.

3. PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the Association is to foster the ministry of spiritual direction by the members, and in the wider community by

- a) Encouraging the ongoing personal and spiritual growth of its' members
- b) Providing regular, relevant and up to date professional development programs for the membership

- c) Providing professional accountability and recognition for the members through annual reporting of required supervision and professional development.
 - d) Encouraging connections and mutual support of members for each other through both on-line and face to face gatherings.
 - e) Formally connecting with other spiritual direction associations for support, sharing resources and collaborating where possible for professional development programs and conferences
- [Australian Network for Spiritual Direction \(ANSND\)](#)
[Companions in the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises \(CMISE\)](#)
[Ecumenical Spiritual Directors Association SA \(ESDA\)](#)
[Spiritual Directors Network \(Perth\)](#)
[Spiritual Directors International](#)

4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Conference is comprised of graduates of spiritual direction from a number of different spiritual direction formation centres from around Australia and beyond as approved by the Australia Ecumenical Council of Spiritual Direction (AECSD see below).

Members are required to be receiving both spiritual direction and supervision of their practice.

Membership is renewed annually, usually mid-year, with the submission of an account of the professional development and supervision sessions attended over the twelve-month period. Important information relating to policies and procedures for maintaining ethical and professional standards.

It is a requirement of the Conference that all members hold a current Working with Children check/authorisation for the respective State, Territory or jurisdiction in which the member lives. Evidence of this must be included in the annual submission of the Renewal of Membership.

Important information relating to policies and procedures for maintaining ethical and professional standards may be found at the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd website www.acsltd.org.au

An annual fee as agreed on at the most recent AGM is payable at the annual membership renewal.

Any monies held by the Conference are applied exclusively for the aims and objectives of the conference and will not be redistributed to members, except in the eventuality that the conference is dissolved.

It is recommended that members have a personal insurance policy to cover their ministry. There is no group insurance. The Conference is not liable for any claims that may be made against a member in the carrying out of their ministry.

Applications for new membership are made by completion of the online Application Form. On ratification of this application the new member is offered the first year of membership free for any individual who has recently graduated with recognised qualification in spiritual direction. For all other individuals, membership fee applies.

A member of the Conference is appointed to be the representative of the Conference on the AECSD.

Retiring from the ministry of Spiritual Direction, after being an active member for ten years an offer of honorary membership will be given. Giving member the right to attend professional development and conferences into the future along with ongoing communication from CSD. They are not required to pay the annual fee or complete the Renewal of Membership.

5. ADMINISTRATION TEAM

The administration team in service of CSD is:

National Chair

Treasurer

This is a paid part time casual position appointed by the Chair and ratified by the AGM

Communications Coordinator

This is a paid part time casual position appointed by the Chair and ratified by the AGM

The role of the National Chair is

- a) To coordinate the overall conduct of CSD activities
- b) To animate, encourage and support the membership
- c) To review and accept new members
- d) To oversee the planning and program for the professional development of the members.
- e) To prepare the agenda for the 'AGM'
- f) To attend to such day- to- day items of business and decision-making required for the ongoing life and mission of CSD.
- g) To connect regularly with AECSD to ensure ongoing collaboration as well as ensuring the financial viability of the Council.
- h) To link with other spiritual direction associations sharing resources, giving support and together continuing to explore ways of growing the spiritual direction ministry in the wider community.

The role of Treasurer is

- a) To act as administrative assistant to the Chair
- b) To attend as minute secretary the AGMs and any other meetings as required by the Chair
- c) To distribute and collect the annual Renewal of Membership
- d) To collect the annual subscriptions from the membership
- e) To oversee the CSD finances, banking and financial commitments.

The role of the Communication Coordinator is

- a) To prepare and distribute the CSD Newsletter
- b) To keep and maintain a register of members

- c) To maintain confidential CSD records and archives, minutes of AGM and any other meetings
- d) To maintain and develop the CSD website updating regularly with items from the Chair and the members
- e) To maintain and monitor all social media platforms and online publications representing CSD.
- f) To support communication across the association including the preparation of any publications as approved by the chair

The Chair is assisted in their role by voluntary members of the Conference appointed by the Chair to act as a Reference Group on behalf of the membership providing both support and accountability for the Chair in the carrying out of their duties. The reference group members may from time to time attend to specific tasks as required by the Chair. In the carrying out of these tasks the reference group members may call on other members of the Conference for assistance.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held every three years at a time and place decided by the Chair.

All current financial members may attend with active voice.

The Chair is elected by the AGM. Nominations for the position of Chair are invited prior to the AGM and during the AGM. The Chair shall be eligible for re-election to a second subsequent term of office but not for a consecutive term of office.

All members are eligible for election.

The AGM will

- a) receive apologies
- b) confirm the minutes of the previous AGM
- c) receive and approve the Chair's Report
- d) receive and approve the annual financial statements
- e) address any agenda items as submitted by the Chair and any of the members of the Association
- f) elect a new Chair
- g) review and vote on recommendations for membership fees for the next 3 years.

A special General Meeting may be held before the next AGM to address any matters, including approval of amendment of the Constitutions, as decided by the Chair

7. AMMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTIONS

Amendment to the Constitutions may be made in whole or in part by subsequent General Meetings on a motion passed by a two thirds majority of members present and voting, provided that notice of such motion to amend the Constitutions is communicated to the members not less than three calendar months before the General Meeting.

8. ADDENDUM

AUSTRALIAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

The Australian Ecumenical Council of Spiritual Directors (AECSD) is a Council originally established (2004) by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia to supervise and approve the programs being offered by spiritual direction formation centres. The role of the Council is the provision of formal guidelines to foster the formation of spiritual directors and supervisors within formation programs; formal recognition for spiritual direction formation programs; the provision of a Code of Ethics and Supervision Guidelines (See AECSD Website); opportunities for connection, support and collaboration among formators and co-operative relationships with spiritual direction associations through their representatives on the AECSD.

The membership of the Council comprises twelve persons: nine persons who have been appointed by a process of consultation and discernment throughout the spiritual direction community in Australia; three persons who are appointed by the national spiritual direction associations with one person from each.

Reviewed Constitution by CSD Australia Reference Group August 2026
Revision proposed for August 2028