



Rule Remits for MHNS BGM

Friday 24 March 2023

Remit 1

MHNS Rule remit 8(a)(ii)(a):

That a new sub-clause 8(a)(ii)(a) be inserted to read “The NZNO Professional Nursing Adviser with the responsibility for Mental Health & Addictions shall be an ex-officio member of the National Committee. For the sake of clarity, the NZNO Professional Nurse Adviser on the National Committee under these Rules shall also be counted as a member for the purposes of attendance quorum under clause 11(a) of these Rules”.

Rationale:

The PNA is a key part of the MHNS National Committee. There is some confusion about the legitimacy of the PNA to be counted as a member of the MHNS for member quorum numbers, and their ability to take part in the voting processes of the MHNS. This remit clarifies these issues.

Remit 2

MHNS Rule remit 8(a)(iii)(a):

That a new sub-clause 8(a)(iii)(a) to read “Clause 8(a)(iii) of these Rules shall not prevent a retiring National Committee member being recalled to fill a vacancy under Clause 8(c)(iii) of these Rules, should there be insufficient members elected to the National Committee. Anybody who is recalled under this clause shall be limited to an additional three-year term – or until the next National Committee elections are held (whichever is the longer period), at which time the two-year stand-down per clause 8(a)(iii) of these Rules shall apply”.

Rationale:

The ability to second a person on to the MHNS National Committee if required already exists. It would be advantageous for the MHNS National Committee to be able to fill an unfilled vacancy with a current committee member if that person is due to complete their allocated term (if that member is willing to fill the vacancy) – in order to ensure continued efficient running of the MHNS. The current MHNS National Committee acknowledges the need for succession planning, but also recognise that persons exiting the MHNS National Committee may be involved with pertinent work that should be continued by them, in order for the MHNS to be relevant in the wider New Zealand mental health and addictions nursing context.

Remit 3

MHNS Rule remit 8(b)(ii)(a):

That a new clause 8(b)(ii)(a) be inserted to read “In the event of there being no quorum at the Biennial General Meeting [BGM] or other Special General Meeting [SGM], the National Committee shall remain with the same membership and shall have the continued powers assigned per these Rules until such time as the BGM or SGM can be held and has an attendance of members which meets the quorum established under 8(b)(ii) of these Rules”.

Rationale:

It is possible, and has happened in the past, that the BGM has not had an attendance of enough members to meet the necessary quorum. This change clarifies that the National Committee can continue exercising its powers and functions until such time as the meeting can be held that has the required quorum.

Remit 4

MHNS Rule remit 10(e):

That a new clause 10(e) be inserted to read “In the event of a failure to meet the attendance of members quorum set at 8(b)(ii) of these Rules, then the National Committee shall set a new date for the meeting, no later than six months later, and that the National Committee shall continue to exercise its powers and functions per clause 8(b)(ii)(a) of these Rules”.

Rationale:

This is a consequential change to ensure that where a BGM or SGM has to be abandoned due to lack of a quorum, then a new meeting is called within a reasonable timeframe and that the National Committee can continue to function until the new meeting is held.