



Australian National Kennel Council Limited ABN 77 151 544 679 trading as Dogs Australia

## PRESS RELEASE

### Members contacting Dogs Australia Directly

Recent discussions regarding members contacting Dogs Australia directly, have highlighted the fact that some members may not be aware of the history and Constitution of ANKC Ltd. An explanation of its relationship with the State and Territory Member Bodies can be found in the “About Us” section on the Dogs Australia website and in the Constitution. We hope the following extracts from them will help members understand why any matters concerning Dogs Australia must be referred to their Member Body.

### History

When the original Constitution was drafted in 1958, a vital resolution was, “*That the Australian National Kennel Council be constituted so that it is empowered to act only as a co-ordinating and recommendatory body*”. Over the succeeding years the Australian National Kennel Council gradually moved in character from an “advisory” towards a “co-ordinating” body, many changes were made to rules and procedures. In 1982 a new Constitution was adopted which designated ANKC as a Co-ordinating Body. This change of Constitution enabled many decisions to be made which would previously have been rejected. It also led to wide discussion on various issues and areas where ANKC might take control or take over the improvement of certain activities.

The following extract from our **Mission Statement** reinforces that position:

*“To act as spokesperson on all canine related activities on a national basis on behalf of State Member Bodies and to pledge assistance and support to the respective State Member Bodies”.*

### There are 33 Objects listed in the Constitution; the following illustrate the ANKC role as a Co-ordinating Body

- d) *To act as a federal organisation representing the interests of its Member Bodies in each of the States and Territories of the Commonwealth of Australia.*
- f) *To promote uniformity in regard to laws and regulations affecting Dog owners and breeders throughout the Commonwealth of Australia.*
- g) *To enable its Member Bodies to take co-operative action on matters which are of common interest and are for their mutual benefit in the promotion of canine affairs.*

## **A very important item in the Constitution is Clause 4. Interference with Powers**

This is a long clause but it is very instructive and recommended reading.

4. *Except where expressly provided in this Constitution, the ANKC shall not interfere with the exercise of the powers or responsibilities of a Member Body, without the express written authority of such Member Body. The ANKC recognises that Member Bodies have the following exclusive powers in relation to themselves and their activities respectively:*

### **Logistically**

There are currently just over 29,000 members of Dogs Australia Member Bodies, the Dogs Australia office staff consists of the Administrator and a part-time Assistant. The Dogs Australia Directors are appointed by the Boards of their Member Bodies, they have in turn been elected by the members, they are the go to for Dogs Australia issues.

Hugh Gent OAM  
President & Chairman of the Board  
December 2024