



VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN
EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Rationale for proposed Constitutional changes, May 2016

During the last 12-15 months members of the VADEA Executive have held formal and informal discussions regarding the size of the Executive, currently standing at 20, and not to exceed 22.

The reduction in size of the Executive would align us more closely with other Executive Boards where the number of the Executive is commonly between 5 -10 individuals.

We, the Executive, wish to modify our constitution and propose the VADEA Executive to be reduced to 10 individuals. Project Officers would volunteer to work in specific portfolios to assist the Executive. Project Officers would be supported and guided by members of the Executive.

This reduction in number has been planned to streamline decision-making and maintain clarity of roles and responsibilities.

We see the new structure as an opportunity to formalise a mentoring role between members of the Executive and the Project Officers, as they will feel part of a team, be supported in specific projects, mentored to take on new challenges and grow into their role, over time building confidence to nominate for an Executive position.

Currently meetings are held every 6-8 weeks and run for 2-3 hours and 20 members are expected to attend. This has proved challenging to members who live in rural areas or on the outskirts of Sydney and has resulted in the Executive being drawn from mostly metropolitan Sydney. It is hoped volunteers from rural areas would join as Project Officers without the need to formally meet every 6-8 weeks. They would report to the member of the Executive leading the team. In this proposal, members outside of metropolitan Sydney can support VADEA as Project Officers without the need to attend regular meetings.

The 2016 VADEA Executive is made up of volunteers (teachers and educators); 6 from Independent or Catholic schools, 8 from DET schools and 6 in tertiary or other employment) who are passionate about promoting visual arts education; they do an excellent job and have met all of the objectives of the Association.

The Executive propose that by reducing the number of Executive positions there would be opportunities to:

- provide mentoring for new members interested in joining the Executive through project teams.
- increase rural and distance participation in VADEA NSW by developing rural and distance 'projects teams' where individuals contribute with the support and guidance of a member of the Executive but do not need to travel to Sydney to attend meetings each 6-8 weeks.
- update the constitution to reflect the model of two Co- Presidents that has been in place for the last 3 years on the VADEA Executive.
- Include the addition of Honorary Members and Life Members in the proposed changes to the constitution.

After lengthy discussion at two Executive meetings, a motion was passed with strong support for taking the proposal to the members and seeking support for these changes.

We thank you for your time and interest in VADEA NSW.

All proposed changes to the Constitution are highlighted in RED.

Stephen Collins & Kathy Kyriacou
VADEA Co-Presidents.
20 April 2016