



**Circular 15/ 2019**

**23 June 2019**

**To:** Presidents, CIRs and Standing Committee Conveners and members  
**From:** GWI Board of Officers  
**Subject:** Proposed Amendment from Australia Graduate Women (AGW, formally AFGW) to the Constitutional Resolution of Restricted Funds

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The Board has accepted an amendment to the constitution resolution on Restricted Funds below. Both the original resolution and the AGW amendment are reproduced below for your information. They can also be found on the GWI website.

**CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION 1 – RESTRICTED FUNDS (revised Circular 10, June 17 June 2019)**

Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves that:**

**Restricted Funds cannot be used for any other purpose than that specified unless approved by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Officers and the Finance Committee.**

**Supporting Statement**

*Over time, restricted funds have been created to be used for a specific purpose only. The three current restricted funds, Hegg Hoffet, Bina Roy and Fellowships and Grants fund, are accounted for and shown separately in the monthly reports. However, only the Hegg Hoffet fund is on a separate bank account. It is too costly to open separate bank accounts for each restricted fund. The Caroline Spurgeon Centenary fellowship, which will be awarded at the AGM in 2019, is also in a separate bank account.*

*During the 2013 - 2016 triennium, funds were transferred from restricted funds and used to cover general expenses. This remit is designed to ensure that this does not happen in the future except in exceptional circumstances where the financial viability of the organisation is under threat.*

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT FROM AUSTRALIA – AGW**

Constitutional Amendment proposed by AGW (formerly AFGW) in opposition to Constitutional Amendment 1 from the GWI Board: That the following words be inserted as clause 12 of Article X (Financial Resources and Dues):

**Changes to the purposes or use of restricted funds require the approval of a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly.**

## Statement in Support

*Common usage describes a restricted fund as having two essential features: 1: A **restricted fund** is a reserve of money that can only be used for specific purposes and 2: **Restricted funds** provide reassurance to donors that their contributions are used in a manner they have chosen.*

*In its past practice IFUW/GWI has relied on the specification of particular purposes for Fellowships, Bina Roy and Hegg Hoffet and the soliciting of donations to further those purposes as defining them as restricted funds and they have been recognised as specific entities in the accounting procedures. It is imperative GWI continues to do so.*

*The proposed Constitutional Amendment 1 from the Board, while accepting that Fellowships, Hegg Hoffet and Bina Roy are “restricted funds” effectively undermines any meaningful definition of that term by ignoring the crucial word “only” proposing that they can be used for other purposes.*

*The proposal totally fails to recognise the significance of the second point cited above –that these funds were set up by the vote of the membership and come from gifts, donations, bequests and fundraising efforts from members. Acceptance of these funds by GWI can and should be regarded as an implied contract with the membership that the funds will be used only for the purposes described. The funds do not belong to the Board or the Finance Committee –they belong to the membership and **any change in their purpose and use** must require the consent of the membership, which can only be given through a vote of the General Assembly.*

Yours sincerely

GWI Board