



**International Association of
Auto Theft Investigators**

**Australasian Branch
Constitution**

Incorporating amendments accepted at the
Annual General Meeting on 30 November 2021

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Preamble

IAATI promotes that all actions, activities and relationships, among its members, must be inspired by fair and equitable treatment, within a framework of courtesy.

IAATI ratifies the firm commitment to combat any form of discrimination, promoting respect for human rights and freedom, without distinction of race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, religion, political opinion, national or social origin, economic situation, birth or any other condition.

This Constitution and every other document the organization is based on our:

VISION:

To be the recognized global expert and leading provider of training on the deterrence, prevention, investigation, and prosecution of vehicle crimes.

MISSION:

To provide a global approach in the fight against vehicle crime while providing effective, specialized training and unparalleled networking to our members.

VALUES:

- Integrity: We always strive to do what's right.
- Commitment: We do what we say we are going to do.
- Professionalism: We require high standards of conduct by our members and affiliates.
- Teamwork: We work together as a team for the greater good of the organization.
- Respect: We always treat others with honesty and courtesy.

The actions of IAATI's members must be guided by these and must be reflected in their work and daily activities. They must defend these values in a practical manner through their actions and behavior.

Article 1: Name and Aims

Section 1: Name

The organisation will be known as the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators - Australasian Branch, and is hereinafter referred to as "the Branch". The name of the Branch shall not be used publicly by any member other than by the use of the membership card for identification purposes without the express written permission of the Committee. This shall not restrict the officers, agents or appointees of the Branch from using the Branch name to carry on duties of their office. No member of the Branch may act in the name of the Branch to endorse any product or service, nor shall the Branch's logo be used to suggest endorsement in any advertisement of any product or service or used in any way other than to indicate membership without prior written approval of the Branch Committee of Management.

Section 2: Aim

The purposes of the Branch shall be

- a) To unite for mutual benefit those public officials and private persons engaged in the reduction, prevention, detection, enforcement, education, training or investigation of vehicle theft and its associated crimes.
- b) To provide for the exchange of technical information and developments.
- c) To cooperate with any other individual, agency or association to further vehicle theft reduction, prevention, detection, enforcement, education, training or investigation.
- d) To encourage high professional standards of conduct among members and other theft investigators.

Section 3: Ethics and Conduct

The Branch is dedicated to the thorough investigation, prevention and reduction of motor vehicle theft and its associated crimes governed by the highest standard of ethical conduct.

Any person accepting membership in IAATI agrees to abide by the Association's rules, policies, and the International Board's endorsed Code of Ethics.

Members found to be in breach of the Code of Ethics may be subject to disciplinary measures.

Section 4: Non Profit

The assets and income of the branch shall be applied solely in furtherance of its abovementioned purposes, and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the organisation except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.

Article 2: Membership

Section 1: Government membership

Membership is open to any person employed by a recognised law enforcement or regulatory agency; Persons employed by a Government Scientific or Forensic body, whose duties relate to the aims of the Branch; Employees of Motor Vehicle Registration authorities; members of the Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council; or any person honourably retired from one of these categories.

Section 2: Industry membership

Membership is open to employees of the motor vehicle insurance industry; motoring associations; Private Inquiry Agents involved in vehicle theft investigations; employees of motor vehicle manufacturing or importing firms; associated industries; or any person honourably retired from one of these categories.

Section 3: Application for membership

Membership shall be granted at the discretion of the Committee. Applications are to be made to the Executive Director. Applications of persons denied membership shall be returned to the person applying with a letter of explanation.

Section 4: Life Membership

The Branch may confer Life Membership upon any member who has rendered distinguished service to the Branch and its purposes. Nominations for Life membership shall be received by the Executive Committee at any time for approval by a majority vote of the committee. Any Life member shall have the privileges and responsibilities of a member, without payment of annual fees. Past presidents having completed two terms as President shall be entitled to become a Life Member of the Branch, as approved by the Committee.

Section 5: Termination

Membership in the Branch shall terminate by:

- a) voluntary withdrawal;
- b) when a member is in arrears with fees or other obligations to the Branch; or
- c) a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the entire Committee, if the Committee considers that the member has exhibited conduct inconsistent with the ethics and aims of the Branch.

Article 3: Election of Officers

Section 1: Committee

The Committee of the Branch shall consist of the Executive Committee, and Ordinary Committee Members.

The Executive Committee shall consist of President; three (3) Vice-Presidents, the Immediate Past President and Executive Director known as the Executive Committee.

The Ordinary Committee Members will ordinarily consist of twelve (12) elected members and elected by vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The Executive Director shall be an ex officio appointment on agreement by the Committee.

Section 2: Election and Terms of office

The holders of all Executive and Ordinary Committee positions (except Immediate Past President) will be elected by ballot at the AGM each year by a majority vote of members of good standing in attendance in person, via teleconferencing or by a proxy. They will hold office until the election of their respective successor.

Notice of Election and call for nominations for all Executive Committee positions will be made with the notification of the first Annual General Meeting held in any calendar year usually in conjunction with the Annual Training Seminar. Nominations for all Committee positions will be closed 24 hours before the Annual General Meeting. Voting and proxies will be conducted at the Annual General Meeting by ballot with the results disclosed at the seminar dinner.

Candidates for nomination to the office of President shall only be eligible for such nomination if they have served at least one previous elected period as an Ordinary Committee Member.

Notice of Election and call for nominations will be made with the notification of the first Annual General Meeting held in any calendar year usually in conjunction with the Annual Training Seminar. In the event of a tied ballot then the Executive Committee shall have a casting vote.

The Standard Operating Procedures shall dictate the terms as to the conduct of the ballot for Executive Committee and Ordinary Committee members.

Section 3: Casual vacancies

In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee between Annual General meetings, or in the event that the committee consider a further appointment in excess of twelve committee members (notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1) is in the best interests of the Branch then the Committee may appoint a member to the position of Ordinary Committee member by simple majority vote of a valid quorum at a Committee meeting. This person will hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

Article 4: Administration

Section 1: Committee

The administration of the Branch shall be vested in the Committee. A majority of members of the Committee, including the President, or a Vice President, or the Executive Director at any duly constituted meeting, shall constitute a quorum. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to one vote on any question before the Committee. A simple majority vote will decide the question. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote. The Executive Director shall be an ex officio member of the Committee with full voting rights.

Section 2: Committee meetings

Where possible, Committee meetings will be held in person. However, members in locations remote from the meeting may attend by telephone or tele-conferencing link-ups. At least two meetings will be held each year. Additional meetings may be called by any member of the Committee.

Section 3: Duties and Powers

The Committee shall have full authority to initiate and transact all business necessary for the existence of the Branch and the fulfilment of its aims as specified in the SOPs.

Section 4: President

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Branch and shall be responsible for supervising and coordinating the activities of the Branch, and presiding at meetings of the Branch and Committee. The President may appoint appropriate individuals or committees for the conduct and activities of the Branch and shall require reports from each as deemed fit. The President, through regular communication with the other

Committee members, shall ensure that the responsibilities of the positions are being properly fulfilled.

Section 5: Vice Presidents

In the absence of the President, a Vice President nominated in writing by the President shall be the Chief Executive and shall act as such. If the President is unwilling or unable, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Committee.

Section 6: Executive Director

The Executive Director shall assist the President and Committee with the administration of the Branch. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the President for the disbursement of Branch funds and shall regularly provide a complete summary of all income and expenditure. The Executive Director shall keep the records and minutes of the Branch, and shall maintain the membership list, the Constitution, and all other documents or items of value entrusted to the position.

It shall be the Executive Director's duty to receive and acknowledge all communications of the Branch addressed to Executive Director, or that may be submitted by the Committee. The Executive Director shall provide, to members at each Annual General Meeting, a report of income and expenditure. The Executive Director shall also perform such duties as assigned by the President.

The President shall nominate to the Committee, at the Committee's inaugural meeting or as soon as practicable after election, a member of good standing to be the Executive Director.

Section 7: Ordinary Committee members

Ordinary Committee members shall assist the President with the administration of the Branch.

Section 8: Meetings

The Branch shall hold an Annual General Meeting, the venue for each successive meeting decided by the Committee in consultation with the members.

Section 9: General Voting

Only current financial members, which includes Life Members, but excludes corporate members, may vote upon issues which come before the Branch. Written proxy votes will be permitted.

Section 10: Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

There shall be a set of Standard Operating Procedures to describe the operating procedures of the Branch. The SOPs shall define the responsibilities of the Committee, the conduct of the Annual General Meeting, the administration of the Branch Awards and other items deemed appropriate. The Policy and Procedures may be amended by a majority vote of the Committee.

Article 5: Affiliation

Section 1: Charter

The Branch shall constitute a regional chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI). Such status will be preserved by the maintenance of the charter issued to the Branch, following written application.

Section 2: Assessment

The Branch shall be required to pay to the IAATI an annual assessment for each Branch member. The amount of this assessment shall be determined from time to time by an Annual Meeting of IAATI. The assessment will be forwarded to the IAATI Treasurer within forty-five (45) days of the end of the Branch's membership year. Failure to pay the assessment may result in forfeiture of the Charter.

Section 3: Annual Meetings

On those years that the IAATI's Annual Meeting is held within the Branch's area, the Branch's Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with the IAATI Annual Training Seminar.

Article 6: Finance

Section 1: Fees

The Committee shall fix annual fees for membership of the Branch. The fees shall be payable to the Australasian Branch in advance of January 1 in the manner prescribed by the Committee. A prospective member shall submit fees with their application for membership, which, upon admission, will pay fees until the 31st of December following.

Failure to pay fees within (90) days of the due date shall result in forfeiture of the membership.

Section 2: Audit

An auditor appointed by the Committee shall audit the accounts of the Branch each year. A written report from the auditor shall be accepted by the Committee and made available to members upon request.

Article 7: Amendments

Section 1: Requirements

This Constitution may be amended by any Annual General Meeting of the Branch by a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the members present, provided:

- a) the proposed amendment is disseminated in writing to the membership of the Branch at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- b) the proposed amendment is presented in a form consistent with, and without conflict to the remainder of the existing Constitution.

Written proxies shall be counted as being present at the meeting for the purpose of this Section.

Article 8: Dissolution of the Branch

Section 1:

In the event of the dissolution of the Branch, whether voluntary or involuntary, no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its assets, and the balance of all money and other property received by the Branch from any source, after payment of all debts and obligations of the Branch, be transferred to the Association's International's headquarters.

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