Rotary Community Leader Election

Process

UPDATED 20 March 2024

Situation

1. The Rotary Community Leaders, those who will support Rotary Community Groups, will

be selected through an election process. Like the recent Regional Council elections, the process has been developed from RI processes and procedures and based on the RI constitutional documents, the Manual of Procedure, and the Code of Policy.

1. Based on our experience of the Regional Council election, we have made some amendments to suit the Rotary Community Leader (RCL) elections. These have been included in the attached RCL Election process.
2. The Regionalisation elections team believe that the process for electing RCLs is fair, compliant with RI policy, and applicable across Zone 8.
3. RISPPO conducted the Regional Council election, however, they do not have the capacity to conduct an election for 100 + RCLs. In addition, unlike the Regional Council elections, these elections have a more local aspect, involving clubs in selecting their RCLs who will be nominated by clubs and who, in most instances, will be known to the clubs. Further,

there is no RI endorsement step in these elections, so clubs have direct ownership of the outcome.

1. The lack of RI capacity to run the elections, and their local nature, led to the request for District Governors to take charge of and run the RCL elections by nominating an Elections Officer and conducting the elections in accordance with the enclosed process, which

includes recommendations on how it can be done and offers further support to do so as needed.

1. Please note dates and times are AEDT until 7 April 2024, then AEST.

UPDATE 28 FEB:

1. Paragraphs 7 and 8 below have been updated to encourage RCL EOIs to close within 14 days of opening and subsequently for the elections to be run as soon as possible, but in any case, to close by 27 March.
2. RCL nominee experience criterion has been allowed a variation provided certain conditions are met.

UPDATE 20 MAR

The timeline for RCG Establishment meetings and RCL elections has been extended to allow for unforeseen difficulties in some districts as well as now running into Easter and ANZAC Day; there is a subsequent extension of the Rotary Communities Nominee election.

**Rotary Zone 8 Regionalisation Pilot Project**

**Process for Rotary Community Groups to elect their Rotary Community Leaders**

# Background – Rotary Community Groups

* 1. Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in Zone 8 were asked to consider and indicate their preferences for participation in Rotary Community Groups (RCGs). District Leaders and their District Partners from the Regionalisation team were charged with recommending the geographically-based RCGs. The recommendations were presented to the Steering Group and given formal approval on 13 February 2024.
	2. Districts are now organising the RCG Establishment meetings, which will consist of 1-2 leaders from each club. The District will organise a facilitator/s and liaise with the club leaders to schedule the meetings. There will be online briefings for the facilitators. A model agenda will be provided, as well as an online form to input the results of the meeting.
	3. These meetings will be held from mid-February to late-March 2024. The groups will respond to three key questions: (i) what do they want to work on together? (ii) what leadership and support will they need? and (iii) how do they want to operate (meeting and collaboration arrangements etc)? This information, unique to each RCG, will be documented in the online form (provided), and added to the information package for potential candidates for the Rotary Community Leader (RCL) position.
	4. With greater clarity about how the RCL will work with and for their group, the facilitator will encourage the club leaders to start conversations with members who have the skills and traits for the RCL role. This could include people that might not previously have aspired to a traditional leadership position in Rotary, but are excellent facilitators and strategic thinkers. Candidates need four years’ experience in Rotary, but do not need to have been a club or District officer.
	5. As soon as the information package for potential RCL candidates is ready for a particular RCG, the call for Expressions of Interest for that RCG can proceed.
	6. The L&D team will run online briefing and Q&A sessions in March and April 2024 for anyone interested in the RCL role and who would like a better understanding of the expectations of the role.

# Rotary Community Leader Elections

* 1. Expressions of Interest will be called for the position of Rotary Community Leader for each Rotary Community Group as soon as the information package is ready for that RCG. Districts are encouraged to allow up to two weeks before closing EOI and running the vote if there is sufficient time before the Zone closing time.
	2. The period for lodging Expressions of Interest closes at 5pm on Wednesday 2 April 2024; this is to ensure all ballots are with the relevant clubs by Wednesday 8 April 2024.
	3. Prior to lodging an Expression of Interest for the role of Rotary Community Leader, the Member's club must support the applicant by ordinary resolution at a club meeting. A club officer must then certify that the Member nominating for the position is in good standing with

the requisite experience as a Rotary member[[1]](#footnote-1) and generally meets the Position Description and Selection Criteria for the role. The onus will be on their Clubs to certify the nominee is eligible.

**Expressions of Interest for the Position of Rotary Community Leader**

Candidates for the position of Rotary Community Leader must have been members of Rotary and/or Rotaract for at least four years, and must be persons of good standing at the time the EOI is submitted.

Members wishing to nominate for the position of Rotary Community Leader of a Rotary Community Group will be asked to provide a 250-word statement setting out:

* Name
* Rotary or Rotaract Club and District
* Brief overview of involvement in Rotary and/or Rotaract
* Brief overview of their professional and/or employment experience relevant to the role of Rotary Community Leader
* Explanation of their proposed approach to acting as a Rotary Community Leader, and the strengths and experience they will bring to the position.

The 250-word statement will be included in the information provided to Rotary Clubs at the time voting information is circulated. It will

therefore, be important for Candidates to ensure that no personal or private information is included in the statement.

* 1. Once the time for Expressions of Interest closes, District Governor(s) pertaining to each Rotary Community Group will ascertain whether an election will be required for any of the Rotary Community Groups in their area. Where an election is required, the District Governor(s) responsible for the Rotary Community Group will arrange for Clubs in that Group to lodge preferential votes for the position of Rotary Community Leader of the Group. Responsibility for the conduct of these elections will remain with District Governors, who may appoint an Elections Officer to help with that task.
	2. District Governors may choose the method of election that suits their current bylaws or practice, for example, a ballot by email with Clubs returning a ballot “paper” to District for counting. There are online applications to make elections easier and provide automatic preferential counting and scrutineering, such as Election Runner . With Election Runner an account could be set up for each Rotary Community Grouping election that the District is running, thus keeping it at the cost-free level of account.
	3. Rotary International has important rules that prevent the promotion of candidates standing for election to Rotary positions and any campaigning either for or against any candidate. These rules will apply in relation to any election for the position of Rotary Community Leader.
	4. Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in each Rotary Community Group will have one vote for the position of Rotary Community Leader of that Group. As noted above, preferential voting will be implemented, with Rotary and Rotaract Clubs having the opportunity to vote for candidates in their order of preference.
	5. Clubs should be asked to lodge their votes no later than 5pm on Wednesday 25 April 2024. Successful candidates for the position of Rotary Community Leader for each Rotary Community Group will be announced on Monday 29 April 2024.
	6. As with the election for members of the Regional Council, provision will be made for objections to the outcome of the election. Objections will need to be lodged by 9 May 2024, and any objections will be assessed and dealt with by the District Governor. The result of

elections for the position of Rotary Community Leader for which there has been no objection will be announced on 10 May 2024. The result for any RCL election for which an objection has been lodged the result may be delayed for up to 2 weeks whilst the objection process is

followed.[[2]](#footnote-2)

# Rotary Communities Nominee Elections

* 1. RI will conduct the election for the Rotary Communities Nominee.
	2. There will need to be a period of time for Rotary Community Leaders to undertake training and development relevant to their role, and to familiarise themselves with other Rotary Community Leaders across the Zone. It is therefore proposed that nominations for the role of Rotary Community Nominee on the Regional Council be invited on 24 May 2024, with nominations to be received by 7 June 2024.
	3. If necessary, an election for the position of Rotary Communities Nominee will be conducted during the mid-two weeks of June 2024, with the aim of having the Rotary Communities

Nominee ready to take their position on the Regional Council on 1 July 2024. The Rotary Communities Nominee on the Regional Council will be elected by Rotary Community Leaders, with voting to be on a preferential basis. Allowance will need to be made for a period of objection following the initial announcement of the outcome of the election.

* 1. The Rotary Communities Nominee does not have to be a Rotary Community Leader to nominate for the election, but must be proposed and seconded by Rotary Community Leaders.

# OTHER KEY CONSIDERATIONS AS NOTED ABOVE

* + - Preferential voting will be adopted for elections for the role of Rotary Community Leader and for the role of Rotary Communities Nominee on the Regional Council;
		- Elections for the position of Rotary Community Leader will need to be conducted by District Governor(s) for the Rotary Community Groups within their area of responsibility. Where the Rotary Community Group crosses a District boundary, District Governors will need to liaise and collaborate in relation to the conduct of any necessary election;
		- The Governor conducting the election will assess and determine any objections to the role of Rotary Community Leader in their District.
		- The Elections Review Panel will assess and determine any objections to the role of Rotary Community Leader passed on by a Governor, and to the Rotary Communities Nominee on the Regional Council;
		- Appropriate training and development will be developed for Rotary Community Leaders, and the Rotary Communities Nominee will be provided with training as delivered to other

members of the Regional Council;

The elections processes should enable the Rotary Communities Nominee to take their place on the Regional Council by 1 July 2024.

1. The membership experience criterion of four years is highly desirable, but in the case an RCG wishes to nominate a person with less experience, the absolute minimum is two years as a full member and who can:

demonstrate willingness, commitment, and ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of an RCL;

demonstrate knowledge of the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of an RCL; and

submit to the Steering Group a statement that the member understands those qualifications, duties, and responsibilities and is willing and able to assume and faithfully perform those duties and responsibilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In the event that the District Governor requires the assistance of the Elections Review Panel of the Regional Council, results for that RCL election could be delayed by a further two weeks. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)