**ACHC – Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st, Aug 2021**

**Participants Joined via ZOOM – Athreiya ji, Narayan bhatt ji, Ram Sivanji, R B Sriparashara ji, Venkatraman ji, Siva Srinivasanji, Davendra sharmaji, Jatinkumar Bhattji.**

Meeting started 16.23AEST with prayers

Pt Athreiya proposed Pt. Sivan as meeting moderator, every one concurred and Pt. Sivan agreed. ~~time controller~~ .

Pt. Athreiya in his briefing informed members, based on the current Covid-19 rules all our members seeking travel permit from Service NSW under authorized worker category, conducting essential work must carry a letter in support of their claim. To facilitate our members with, ACHC prepared a letter of support (in consultation with our legal team) to be issued to our members, and have so for issued to 4 of our members who requested.

Pt. Athreiya informed ~~told~~, ACHC received a letter from Cemeteries & Crematoria NSW (CCNSW), the regulator of the cemeteries and crematoria sector in NSW, is looking to develop a code of practice into faith and cultural requirements for burials and cremations.

Pt Athreiya also informed in May 2021, he had attended the first stage community consultation meeting that CCNSW had organized.

Pt. Athreiya brought to the members attention about the first meeting we had Last year, Clr.Charishma kalianda approaching CCNSW regading need for new crematorium facilities for Hindus and Banaras (India) based faith community.

Davendra sharmaji suggested that we should write a letter to Multicultural NSW if our members who are fully vaccinated can go and perform puja in ***yajmaan*** (community members place of residence) house. Pt. Sivan suggested not to approach that way since it will confuse the authorities as our complex ritual and practices quite different to predominant Abrahamic religions the authorities familiar, especially when approach them with various requests based on our Samskaras.

Pt.Athreiya updated members, regarding our application to Health NSW via Multicultural NSW for exemptions that we are still waiting for response.

Pt.Atreiya informed that it was brought to his attention that some members are using ACHC issued members ID card inadvertently for other religious services not realizing. And clarified that at present members are only allowed to travel for essential religious services such as Funeral, Memorial other end of life related spiritual and religious service at a designated places only, not to the place of yajmans residence.

Pt. Venkatraman requested that we approaching other Hindu organisations in Australia come together to punt in a joint appeal to the relevant authorities seeking permission, for our clergy members be able to conduct religious ceremonies, as we have major festival (ganesh chaturthi) & religious observance (Pithru paksha) days coming and the demand for our services going to be high.

Pt. Jatin Bhattji in response to that suggested it is better not to. Especially during this restrictions are in place to stop the virus spreading and health authorities deemed the religious festivals and religious gatherings event are major super spreaders hence it is banned for now. Further added, ACHC will not be responsible if any of our members found other side of the law. The member/s involved are the one responsible for their actions since they took the risk.

Pt. Narayan Bhatt agreed that we should perform pujas online and during these difficult lock-down times, we can think on what we do to help our members (like providing more info on welfare payments provided by cent relink) etc..

Priest Sivasrinivasan ji asked about the Health and Safety risks associated when doing pujas online and enquired if the members are covered under the current insurance policy we have, in the remote event of any accident involving (lighting diya etc) during online puja and Pt Rami ji replied that it is individual members responsibility to send disclaimer before doing any puja whether it is online or face to face

Athreiyaji also mentioned that we are not supposed to advise yajmaan any activities involving lighting up the fire, and advice them the safety and risks of doing so.

When members asked to vote on arriving at AGM the date, majority members agreed for AGM to be held on ZOOM subject to its legal validity.

Pt.Athreiyaji requested to check with the legal advisor Mr Ram Pandey about holding AGM on virtual platform via ZOOM, and advise the members regarding the date and the proposed amendments to Hindu Clergy constitution will tabled for members view and for adoption at the AGM.

Meeting concluded at 17:12 hrs with valedictory peace and harmony chanting.