



MEMBERSHIP POLICY Degree Membership

Document Number: *DRTAMEM01*
Date of Issue: *9th April 2021*

Version: 1

1. Purpose and scope

- (a) Diversional & Recreation Therapy Australia (DRTA) encourages and welcomes applicants with tertiary training as described below, to this membership level.
- (b) Qualifications align with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), level 7.
- (c) To provide membership guidelines for applicants with the minimum qualification as described below and to encourage and support further education.
- (d) DRTA encourages members to further the profession with knowledge and skills, supporting competencies for practice.
- (e) Members defined as meeting Degree Membership will have an industry specific degree qualification with a focus in health, leisure and recreation at a minimum.
- (f) Changes in the different levels of membership as of 01/01/2021 have included the provision of a 'Grandfather Clause' where the highest level of training was achieved when the industry specific training was completed fitting Degree membership.
- (g) From 01/01/2021 new members with an associate degree (AQF 6) will align with diploma membership (AQF 5) and not degree membership (AQF 7), to ensure the bachelor's degree is the minimum qualification moving the profession forward.
- (h) Those with a qualification in a related field, not explicitly in health, leisure and recreation will need to show evidence of gaining further knowledge explicitly in health, leisure and recreation, before being eligible for degree membership category.

2. Definitions

- a) For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:
 - Qualified in this context means that the person has an industry specific degree.
 - The member is committed to best practice in the profession through lifelong learning through at least twenty (20) hours of continuous professional development each year.
 - Qualification for degree membership must include a bachelor's degree (AQF7) with explicit knowledge at a minimum in health, leisure and recreation.

3. Policy Statement

To ensure DRTA members and the profession in Australia continues to advance through upholding membership standards, maintaining minimum training levels and continuous professional development.

3.1 Degree Membership for members prior to 2021 must hold one of the following:

- (a) Bachelor of Health Science (Recreation Therapy)
- (b) Bachelor of Applied Science (Diversional Therapy)
- (c) Bachelor of Applied Science (Leisure and Health)
- (d) Bachelor of Health Science (Therapeutic Recreation)
- (e) Bachelor of Health Science (Leisure and Health)
- (f) Other Degree qualifications approved by DRTA Board

3.2 Degree Membership for members from 2021 must hold one of the following:

- (a) A Bachelor's degree as identified above
- (b) Requires a degree with, at a minimum, components in health, leisure and recreation.

3.3 Changes to eligibility for the application of Degree Membership joining from 2021:

- (a) New members joining with an associate degree will now align with Diploma Membership.
- (b) Ongoing member with an associate degree will need to maintain their membership status with DRTA to maintain degree membership.
- (c) If current associate degree membership lapses for more than twelve months, re-joining the association will forfeit degree membership and will be entitled to Diploma Membership, as associate degree level membership is now redundant.
- (d) Other degree qualifications will not be considered under this level of membership unless the degree has components (and can demonstrate knowledge) in health, leisure and recreation.
- (e) Evidence of one hundred (100) hours for each of these components- health, leisure and recreation will be required either during the degree or post qualification.
- (f) Those without evidence of at least 100 hours in health; 100 hours in leisure and 100 hours in recreation will only be eligible for student membership once enrolled in an industry specific qualification.
- (g) Knowledge is the key to advancing the profession. Therefore, qualifications with a degree that do not have the three components of health, leisure and recreation then the lowest component will be considered as the entry point for membership. For example, if an application for membership has a Bachelor of Health Science (Health Services Management) the health component would be covered with the degree however 100 hours of documented education in each the leisure and recreation component would be necessary to meet degree membership. If 50 hours was demonstrated in recreation and 75 hours in leisure the applicant would be accepted at Certificate 4 membership until an additional 25 hours of training is completed in recreation to move to a diploma membership or 50 in recreation and 25 in leisure is met to obtain degree membership.

3.4 Degree membership includes:

- (a) Full Membership of DRTA
- (b) Voting rights for elections (or Proxy if unable to attend)
- (c) Access to the DRTA Website members only areas
- (d) Access to monthly eNewsletters
- (e) Attending network groups, either face to face or online
- (f) Receive discount rates for workshops and conferences
- (g) Can nominate for election to the DRTA Board in all elected positions

4.Procedures

- (a) Member to supply evidence of qualifications on application and to update throughout membership
- (b) To renew membership annually by 1st July
- (c) To undertaking twenty (20) hours of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to be collected and submitted each year in the period from 1st July to the 30th June the following year
- (d) When a member is accepted for degree membership, this policy is sent to the member for clarity of expectations about membership.

5.Guidelines and references – related legislation, policies, and procedures

The DRTA ensures that membership criteria, voluntary codes and advice to members comply with the *Competition and Consumer Act*.

The DRTA ensure membership rules are transparent and applied equally to all potential members, including substantiating reasons for qualification requirements.

DRTA ensures that this policy is in line with the *Constitution of Diversional Therapy Australia*.

6.Policy status and details

Status:	Current
Version:	1
Effective Date:	01 January 2021
Review Date:	31 December 2024
Approval Authority Policy:	DRTA Board
Endorsed by (reviewer):	Charlise Bennett
Approval Date:	01 April 2021
Enquiries Contact:	Enquiries@diversionaltherapy.org.au

Available On:	SharePoint		Website

7.Summary of Changes from Previous Version

- DRTAMEM05 Policy Member -Full Member Degree Assoc Deg Qualified V4 was retired as a policy
- New Membership levels were voted in by members in December 2020
- This policy is essentially a new policy developed from DRTAMEM05 Policy Member -Full Member Degree Assoc Deg Qualified V4