



MEMBERSHIP POLICY Life Membership

Document Number: *DRTAMEM06*
Date of Issue: *9th April 2021*

Version: 1

1. Purpose and scope

- (a) To recognize outstanding contribution of members to Diversional & Recreation Therapy Australia (DRTA).
- (b) DRTA encourages and welcomes nominations from full members of the association.
- (c) Only Australian full DRTA members are eligible for nomination.
- (d) To make provision for life members to connect with DRTA and its members through DRTA network groups, eNewsletter, website and workshops or other events.

2. Definitions

- (a) For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:
 - Changes in the different levels of membership as of 01/01/2021 have included the provision of a 'Grandfather Clause' for those previously deemed as life members.
 - Life membership is deemed appropriate for Australian Citizens only
 - Life membership is deemed appropriate for those who have made considerable contribution to the profession and the association during their membership with the association.
 - Life membership is not based on the qualifications a member has but the contributions made by the member to the profession

3. Policy Statement

3.1 Life Membership for members prior to 2021

- (a) Existing Life Members were not identified in the different levels of membership identified in the discussion paper and voted on.
- (b) Changes in the different levels of membership as of 01/01/2021 have included the provision of a 'Grandfather Clause' including those fitting Life membership.
- (c) Members previous identified as life members were designated Life membership prior the formation of the National body Diversional and winding up the state associations in 2009.

3.2 Life Membership for members from 2021 will have consideration of the following:

- (a) Life Membership was created to reward the outstanding contribution of individuals for the work done in supporting the profession and significantly contributing to the association.
- (b) There is no fee associated with Life Membership
- (c) A limited number of people will be accepted into this level of membership on an annual basis.

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

- (a) To ensure that individuals that make a significant contribution to the profession and the association Life Membership has been reopened and recognise members contribution.
- (b) A maximum of one person per annum will be accepted into the category of life membership
- (c) Life membership is by application only.
- (d) Application for life membership will only be considered on the conditions that a member has had 15 years of membership with the DRTA or the state bodies previous to 2009, and meets the requirement of engagement and contribution with the association and the profession.
- (e) The applicant needs to be nominated by three members of DRTA.

3.4 Life 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) To apply for life membership the applicant needs to have been nominated by three members of DRTA
- (b) The applicant will need to have completed the nomination form
- (c) The application process involves identifying the individual's contribution to the profession and the association outlining those achievements and contributions. Three other DRTA members are to provide a referee in support of the application.
- (d) A maximum of one person will be granted life membership per annum and this will be based on the applicants' merits and references and decided by the board.
- (e) Applications for Life membership I'm not automatically assumes based on the number of applicants as such it is a competitive process based on the contribution to the association and the profession.

- (f) When a full member is accepted for Life Membership, this policy is sent to the member for clarity of expectations about membership.

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

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

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

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| 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: | 9 th April 2021 | | |
| Enquiries Contact: | Enquiries@diversionaltherapy.org.au | | |
| Available On: | SharePoint | | Website |

7.Summary of Changes from Previous Version

- DRTAMEM07 Policy Life Member V2 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:
 - DRTAMEM07 Policy Life Member V2

