

Certified Membership Policy



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Version: 1

Date of Issue: *15th February 2023*

1. Purpose and scope

- a) Australian Recreation Therapy Association (ARTA) 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) Australian Recreation Therapy Association (ARTA) encourages members to further the profession with knowledge and skills, supporting competencies for practice.
- e) Members defined as meeting Certified Membership will have an **industry specific degree** qualification with a **focus in health, leisure and recreation** at a minimum.
- f) Changes to membership levels 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 the Certified Membership.
- g) From 01/01/2021 new members with an associate degree (AQF 6) will align Associate Membership (AQF 5 and below) and not Certified Membership (AQF 7), to ensure those with a bachelor's degree are recognised specifically as therapists.
- h) Those with an alternate 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, through a competency matrix and apply to be recognised as certified. These will be examined on a case-by-case basis by a panel of at least three Certified Members of the Association. If the application is successful, the member will be identified as 'Certified Membership Recognised' as opposed to 'Certified Membership'.

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 'certified membership' must include a bachelor's degree (AQF7) with explicit knowledge at a minimum in health, leisure and recreation.

3. Policy Statement

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

3.1 Certified Members 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 ARTA Board

3.2 Assessing applications for Certified Membership:

- (a) A Bachelor's degree as identified above
- (b) AQF level 7 qualification with, at a minimum, components in health, leisure and recreation.
- (c) At least one third of the degree having subjects specific to Recreational Therapy knowledge and competencies
- (d) Meeting ARTAs self-regulation requirements

3.3 Eligibility for continued Certified Membership:

- (a) Certified Members with the provision of the 'Grandfather Clause' will need to maintain their membership status with ARTA to maintain this level of membership.
- (b) The 'Grandfather Clause' becomes null and void if membership lapses for more than six months, re-joining the association will forfeit certified membership and member will become an associate member of the association.
- (c) Other degree qualifications will not be considered under this level of membership unless stipulated in section 3.2 of the policy.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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.

- (f) 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 components would be necessary to meet certified membership. If 50 hours was demonstrated in recreation and 75 hours in leisure the applicant would be accepted as an associate member until an additional 50 hours in recreation and 25 hours in leisure is met to obtain the minimum requirements for certified membership.

3.4 Benefits and obligations of a Certified Member /Recognised include:

- (a) Certified members have an obligation to the association to maintain the integrity of the profession, code of conduct, ethical principles, and standards of practice set forth by a self-regulating association.
- (b) Certified members have all the ordinary rights and responsibilities of members under the constitution, including the right to attend and vote at general meetings of the company.
- (c) Voting rights at elections includes a Proxy if unable to attend
- (d) Access to the members only areas of the ARTA Website
- (e) Access to electronic monthly Newsletters
- (f) Attending any network groups, either face to face or online
- (g) Receive discount rates for workshops and conferences
- (h) Be on the ARTA Board of Directors (elected positions).

4. Procedures

- a) Applicant to supply evidence of qualifications with membership application and to upload additional qualifications as gained throughout membership
- b) To renew membership annually by 1st July
- c) To undertake at least twenty (20) hours of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) to be collected and uploaded or submitted each financial year, from 1st July to the 30th June the following year.
- d) To receive a copy of this policy and future updates, where appropriate.

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

Australian Recreational Therapy Association (2022). Constitution. Australian Recreational Therapy Association

6. Policy status and details

Status:	Approved		
Version:	1		
Effective Date:	01 March 2023		
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Approval Authority Policy:	ARTA Board		
Endorsed by (reviewer):	C. Bennett; R. Rizzo		
Approval Date:	20/02/2023		
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Available On:	SharePoint	X	Website X

7. Summary of Changes from Previous Version

- New Membership policy version 1 for ARTA