

Associate 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 vocational training as described below, to this membership level.
- b) Members with 'Associate Membership' hold qualifications that align with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), as a level 4, 5 or 6 and those working towards qualifications.
- c) To provide membership guidelines for applicants seeking to join the association.
- 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 Associate Membership will have an industry specific qualification (or working towards) with a focus in health, leisure and recreation at a minimum.
- f) Changes in levels of membership in 2021 have included the provision of historical members with 'Level 1 membership' being considered to have diploma membership, meeting the construct of a 'Grandfather Clause'.
- g) New members with an associate degree in the field will align with Associate Membership.
- 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 'Associate Membership Recognised' as opposed to 'Associate Membership'.
- i) Student members who are currently enrolled in discipline specific AQF qualifications will also be recognised as Associate Member- Student

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 AQF qualification.

- 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.
- Student membership requires the upload of course enrollment information each year, but will not need to show the 20 hours of continuous professional development whilst enrolled.

3. Policy Statement

To ensure profession continues to grow in Australia, ARTA members are expected to uphold membership standards, maintaining minimum training levels and continuous professional development. Qualification requires components in health with leisure and recreation being a substantial focus of the qualification.

3.1 The membership category Associate Membership for members must hold one of the following:

- (a) Diploma in Leisure and Health
- (b) Diploma in Community Services
- (c) Diploma of Health Science (Leisure and Health)
- (d) Diploma of Diversional Therapy (Redleaf College)
- (e) Diploma of Arts (Aged Care)
- (f) Certificate IV in Leisure and Health
- (g) Certificate IV in Community Services (Lifestyle and Leisure)
- (h) Certificate IV Health and Recreation
- (i) Students in Bachelor of Health Science (Recreational Therapy)
- (j) Students in above Diploma or Certificate IV courses.

3.2 Assessing applicants for Associate Membership:

- (a) A qualification as identified above
- (b) Requires the course to have significant components in health, leisure and recreation
- (c) At least one third of the course having subjects specific to Recreational Therapy knowledge and competencies
- (d) Students enrolled in a Degree in Health Science (Recreational Therapy) or deemed appropriate in ARTAMEM01
- (e) Students enrolled in a Diploma in Leisure and Health or deemed appropriate
- (f) Students enrolled in a Certificate IV in Leisure and Health or deemed appropriate

3.3 Student Membership shall not continue for a period more than:

- (a) Six (6) years for a degree qualification
- (b) Four (4) years for a Diploma qualification
- (c) Two (2) years for a Certificate IV qualification

3.4 Eligibility for continued Associate Membership:

- (a) Associate 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, then reassessing qualifications will be based on current membership requirements.
- (c) Other qualifications will not be considered under this level of membership unless stipulated in section 3.2 of the policy.
- (d) Evidence of fifty (50) 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 50 hours in health; 50 hours in leisure and 50 hours in recreation will only be eligible for student membership once enrolled in an industry specific qualification.
- (f) Student Members to supply results each year of enrollment in qualification
- (g) To renew membership annually by 1st July
- (h) Student members to forward qualification to the office once received

3.5 The benefits and obligations of Associate Members include:

- (a) Have an obligation to maintain the integrity of the profession, code of conduct, ethical principles, and standards of practice.
- (b) Access to the ARTA Website members only areas
- (c) Access to electronic monthly Newsletters
- (d) Attending network groups, either face to face or online
- (e) Receive discount rates for workshops and conferences
- (f) Have a right to receive notices of general meetings
- (g) Have a right to attend (but not vote) at general meetings

4. Procedures

- a) Applicant to supply evidence of qualifications on application and to update 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 to ARTA.
- 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		
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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