

## Affiliate Membership Policy



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Version: 1

Date of Issue: *15<sup>th</sup> February 2023*

### 1. Purpose and scope

- a) Australian Recreation Therapy Association (ARTA) encourages and welcomes applicants with an interest in the profession, whilst **not directly working in it, in Australia**.
- b) Affiliate membership is suitable for **international practitioners** also, not required to comply with the practice standards in Australia.
- c) To make provision for qualified international practitioners to connect with ARTA and its members through ARTA events, electronic Newsletter and website.
- d) To make provision for current members to continue as Affiliate Members on their **retirement** or when they cease to actively practice in the industry and to offer this at a reduced cost to the member.
- e) To make provision for highly qualified and experienced people **without discipline specific qualification** (holding a bachelor's degree or higher qualification and with a minimum of 3 years' experience) to connect with ARTA and its members through events, eNewsletter and the website.

### 2. Definitions

- a) For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:
  - Affiliate membership is deemed appropriate if working outside Australia
  - Affiliate membership is deemed appropriate for those **inside Australia, who have an interest in the profession without working directly in it.**

### 3. Policy Statement

3.1 This membership category is **by invitation** and may be offered to people **not practicing or usually residing in Australia** who hold the current recognised qualification in their country of residence. These members are encouraged to share their experiences of RT in other countries with ARTA members.

3.2 To ensure that ARTA, its past current and future members and the profession benefit from the guidance, mentoring, input and exchange between all members including those who have **retired or cease to practice**. This membership category is by invitation and may be offered only to members of ARTA who are retiring or ceasing their practice in the field. These members are encouraged to share their extensive knowledge with others who are still actively working in the field and to stay involved in Network Groups, workshops and other events and the newsletter long into their retirement. ARTA highly values the enormous contributions of our retired members in the development of the profession and the history of the organisation.

3.3 This membership category, as an **academic affiliate**, may be offered academic staff working in other fields not directly related to recreational therapy, for example occupational therapy or music therapy. This is for those people not practicing RT in Australia and who hold a bachelor's degree or a higher qualification with at least 3 years' experience in their field of practice. These members are encouraged to share their ideas, advice and experiences of RT with other ARTA members.

3.4 Affiliate membership includes:

- (a) Membership of ARTA
- (b) Access to monthly eNewsletters
- (c) Receive discounted rates for workshops and conferences
- (d) does NOT hold voting rights
- (e) The Affiliate (International) must apply as per the usual application process if relocating to Australia
- (f) does NOT require continuous professional development hours to be uploaded
- (g) must hold the accepted qualifications to practice within their country of residence
- (h) must NOT be living permanently in Australia
- (i) WILL renew annually at 1<sup>st</sup> July by invoice from ARTA
- (j) MAY attend online or face to face Network groups if visiting Australia
- (k) MAY attend or present at ARTA Workshops and other events if visiting Australia
- (l) Is NOT suitable for active or practicing staff or to support employment

#### 4.Procedures

- a) To renew membership annually by 1<sup>st</sup> July

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

**6.Policy status and details**

<b>Status:</b>	Approved		
<b>Version:</b>	1		
<b>Effective Date:</b>	01 March 2023		
<b>Review Date:</b>	01 March 2026		
<b>Approval Authority Policy:</b>	ARTA Board		
<b>Endorsed by (reviewer):</b>	C.Bennett; R.Rizzo		
<b>Approval Date:</b>	20/02/2023		
<b>Enquiries Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:Enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au">Enquiries@recreationaltherapy.au</a>		
<b>Available On:</b>	SharePoint	x	Website x

**7.Summary of Changes from Previous Version**

- New Membership policy version 1 for ARTA