

Life Membership Policy



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Version: 1

Date of Issue: *15th February 2023*

1. Purpose and scope

- (a) To recognize the outstanding contribution of members to Australian Recreation Therapy Association (ARTA).
- (b) To enable recognition of outstanding contribution to the profession and welcomes nominations from current members of the association.
- (c) Only Certified or Associate members are eligible for nomination.
- (d) To make provision for life members to connect with ARTA and its members through network groups, electronic Newsletters, our website, workshops or other events.

2. Definitions

(a) For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- Changes in membership levels as of 01/01/2021 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 over a sustained time (at least 10 years).
- Life membership is not based on the qualifications a member has but the contributions made by the member over a sustained time to the profession

3. Policy Statement

3.1 Life Membership for members prior to 2021

- (a) Members previous identified as 'Life Members' in State bodies prior the formation of the Diversional Therapy Association in 2009.
- (b) Changes in membership levels have included the provision of a 'Grandfather Clause' including previous Life members.

3.2 Life Membership for members from 2023 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 individuals who 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 ARTA 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 ARTA.

3.4 Life membership includes:

- (a) Membership of ARTA
- (b) Voting rights for elections (or Proxy if unable to attend)
- (c) Access to the ARTA Website members only areas
- (d) Access to monthly electronic Newsletters
- (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 ARTA Board in all elected positions

4. Procedures

- (a) The application for life membership requires the person to be nomination by three members of ARTA
- (b) The Nominator will need to complete the nomination form
- (c) The application process involves identifying the individual's contribution to the profession and the association outlining those achievements and contributions. Two other ARTA 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 member is accepted for Life Membership, this policy is sent to the member for clarity of expectations about membership.
- (g) Life members will be announced at annual conference, when and if successful.

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

6.Policy status and details

Status:	Approved		
Version:	1		
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Review Date:	01 March 2026		
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