



Society of Professional Social Workers (Inc)

PO Box 6573, East Perth, Western Australia 6892

www.spsw.net.au

ABN 90 404 582 393

Membership Policy

1. Aim

To set out the types of memberships offered by the Society of Professional Social Workers (SPSW) Inc, their corresponding fee schedule and the methods of payments. It will also set out the benefits of membership to the SPSW. This policy will be accompanied by a membership procedure document.

2. Principles

The SPSW Inc recognises that it is a membership-based organisation which relies on its membership base for business.

3. Policy

3.1 Membership Types

A. Full Membership (MSPSW)

Full Membership is granted when the individual is:

- a qualified social worker, from an accredited social work course at an Australian university or
- assessed as holding an equivalent qualification from an overseas school of social work by the Australian Association of Social Workers

B. Reduced Membership (MSPSW)

Reduced Membership is a full membership, at a reduced annual fee. The individual is still required to be a qualified social worker as set out above in A. There are four types of reduced membership:

Low-Income Earners

The reduced annual fee is offered to social workers who have an income that is below the low income threshold¹. This type of membership requires a Statutory Declaration to be completed.

¹ Low income will be assessed according to the CENSUS

Part-Time Membership

The reduced annual fee is offered to social workers who work part-time, which is considered to be no more than 3 days or 22.5 hours or less per week.

New Graduate Membership

The reduced annual fee is offered to new graduates to acknowledge that the first year out of university can be remunerated at minimum level. The SPSW Inc offers some assistance to the new social worker by offering a reduced membership fee to the end of the next financial year after graduation.

Retired Membership

The reduced annual fee is offered to those social workers who have retired from the profession and are no longer paid employees. The SPSW Inc acknowledges the contribution these members have made in their social work career, and the contribution they can continue to make to the social work profession in their retirement years. A retired member can choose to pay the membership fee in order to continue to be covered by SPSW Inc's professional indemnity insurance.

C. Fellow Membership (FSPSW)

The Fellow Membership is granted to a member who is actively participating in a range of CPE events throughout the year and achieves the set minimum required number of points. It is monitored by the Professional Practice Committee of the SPSW Inc and signed off annually. Fellows are required to keep a log to record their CPE points. Random audits will be taken throughout the year by the Professional Practice Committee.

D. Life Membership

Life membership is awarded by the Board to an individual who, in the Board's opinion, has rendered outstanding service to the Society.

E. Student Membership

Student Membership is offered to an individual who is currently studying a social work degree from an accredited Australian university. Members in this category do not receive Professional Indemnity Insurance and are not able to vote at SPSW meetings.

F. Associate Membership

Associate Membership is offered to an individual who is a member of another social work professional body, but also wishes to be a member of the SPSW Inc and participate in localized issues and CPE events.

3.2 Membership benefits*

1. Professional Indemnity;
2. Ability to sit on the Board and or its Committees;
3. Member voting rights;
4. Discounts on CPE events
5. A quarterly newsletter;
6. Access to an email system with community sector-orientated information;
7. An employment locum advertisement service;
8. WA-based networking opportunities;
9. The SPSW Inc website
10. Shoprite discounts at select retail outlets

*These benefits are available to all SPSW Inc members, with the exclusion of the Student and Associate members who do not receive Professional Indemnity Insurance and are not able to vote at SPSW meetings.

3.3 Membership Fee Schedule 2

Membership Type	Early Bird Price Payment Between 1st May – 30 th June	Full Amount Payment After 1 st July
Full/Fellow Membership	\$370	\$380
Reduced Membership: <i>Low income Earners</i>	\$290	\$310
<i>New Graduate Membership</i>	\$290	\$310
<i>Part-Time Membership</i>	\$265	\$285
<i>Retired Membership</i>	\$200	\$220
Life Membership	\$0	\$0
Student Membership	\$85	\$95
Associate Membership	\$140	\$150

2 Subject to change

3.4 Payment Types

The SPSW offers three types of payments:

- A. Cheque Payments-
Made Payable to the Society of Professional Social Workers;

B. EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)-
Bank details on the membership form

C. Credit Card-
Details to be completed on the Membership Application Form.

3.5 Payment Due Dates

Membership payments are due the 1st of July every year. There are benefits to paying membership early, as stated in the Fee Schedule in section 3.3 of this Policy.

If payment has not been received within 30 days of its due date, the member will be contacted for a reminder.

If the payment is still not received, two weeks later the membership will be suspended until paid, and the member again contacted. If the payment is not received after 90 days, membership will be cancelled.

BOARD RESOLUTION: May 2014

ADOPTION DATE: May 2014

REVIEWED: October 2016

REVIEW DATE: October 2017