



Society of Professional Social Workers (Inc.)

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Society of Professional Social Workers - Membership Policy

1. Aim

To set out the types of membership offered by the Society of Professional Social Workers (SPSW Inc.), its corresponding fee schedule and the methods of payment. It will also set out the benefits of the SPSW Inc.

2. Principles

The SPSW Inc. recognises that it is a membership-based organisation which relies on its membership base to enable it to carry out its objectives.

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 where the social worker is assessed as holding an equivalent qualification from an overseas school of social work as attested to by the Australia Association of Social Workers.

B. Reduced Membership (MSPSW)

Reduced Membership is a full membership, at a reduced annual fee. Reduced Membership provides the same level of Professional Indemnity Insurance as Full Membership. This category of membership requires the individual to be a qualified social worker from an accredited social work course at an Australian university, or the individual to be assessed as holding an equivalent qualification from an overseas school of social work as attested to by the Australian Association of Social Workers. 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 threshold of \$ 51,168. This type of membership requires a Statutory Declaration to be completed.

Part-time Workers

The reduced annual fees is offered to social workers who work at a part-time capacity. Part-time is considered to be no more than 3 days or 22.5 hours or less a week. This type of membership requires proof of part-time employment.

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 minimal level. Thus the SPSW Inc. offers some assistance to the new social worker by offering a reduced annual fee to the end of the next financial year following graduation.

Retired Membership

The reduced annual fee is offered to social workers who have retired from the profession and no longer work in a paid or self-employed professional capacity. 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.

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 require number of points (See Fellowship Policy). It is monitored by the Professional Practice Committee of the SPSW Inc. and signed off annually. Fellow are required to keep a log book to record their CPE points. Random audits will take place by the Professional Practice Committee.

D. Life Membership (LMSPSW)

Life Membership is awarded by the Board to an individual who, in the Board's opinion, has rendered outstanding service to the Society. A Life Member is afforded all the rights and benefits of a Full Member, but does not need to pay a membership fee.

E. Student Membership

Student Membership is offered to an individual who is currently studying for a social work degree from an accredited Australian university.

F. Associate Membership

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

3.2 Membership Benefits

1. Professional Indemnity Insurance;
2. Eligibility to sit on the Board and its committees;
3. Member voting rights;
4. Discount on CPE events;
5. A quarterly newsletter;
6. A locum and employment advertisement service;
7. WA-based networking opportunities;

These benefits are available to all SPSW Inc. members, with the exception of Student and Associate members, who do not receive Professional Indemnity Insurance.

3.3 Membership Fee Schedule

Membership Type	Membership Fee 2021/22 tax year	Membership Fee 2022/23 tax year	Membership Fee 2023/24 tax year
Full/Fellow Membership	\$440	\$490	\$540
Reduced Membership	\$340	\$390	\$440
Life Membership	\$0	\$0	\$0
Student Membership	\$50	\$50	\$50
Associate Membership	\$150	\$150	\$150

The fee for membership for part of the tax year (ie for those joining some months in to the tax year) will be determined based on the pro-rata cost of the Professional Indemnity Insurance and an administrative cost.

3.4 Payment Types

The SPSW Inc. offers three types of payments.

- A. Cheque Payments
Made payable to the Society of Professional Social Workers Inc.
- B. Bank transfer
To the SPSW bank account detailed on the membership enrolment 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. 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 and Professional Indemnity Insurance will be cancelled, and the person will be notified.

Policy Date: May 2021
Review Date: May 2023