

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Objectives

- To describe information pertaining to membership of Friendly Street Poets including rights, responsibilities, classifications and other conditions.
- To ensure that members and non-members have an understanding of the opportunities available and responsibilities of membership of FSP.
- To fulfill the obligations of the constitution of FSP.

Policy Statements

FSP affirms that membership is the essential foundation of the association. Without members there cannot be the Friendly Street Poets Association.

Member-based incorporated associations add value to the community and promote social inclusion.

Members of FSP actively contribute to the vision, mission and objectives of the association.

Members value the work of FSP and join others in support of this work.

Members are eligible for additional benefits not provided to non-members.

Categories of Membership

The forms of membership following confer full rights, responsibilities and opportunities of FSP membership upon the member.

1. Individual full membership is provided for individual persons.
2. Organisational membership is provided to enable interested organisations to join FSP.
 - 2.1. where an organisation joins as a member of FSP the organisation will provide:
 - 2.1.1. one nominated representative person (may be a position e.g. Management Committee Chairperson);
 - 2.1.2. organisational contact details
 - 2.2. organisational membership entitles the organisation to one vote at any members' meeting; and
 - 2.3. an organisational representative may not stand for election to the Management Committee unless they are a member in their own right and stand as an individual; and
 - 2.4. organisational membership will be greater than the individual membership fee.
3. Individual concessional membership is provided to individuals entitled to pay a reduced annual membership fee. The concessional fee will be:
 - 3.1. 60% of the full fee; and
 - 3.2. will only be offered to an individual who along with their membership application provides proof of entitlement for concession as a full time student or Centrelink Pension or Health Care Card holder.
4. Life Membership
 - 4.1. From time to time a member may be identified who has consistently provided outstanding service and or contribution to FSP over many years.
 - 4.2. The Management Committee may nominate to a membership meeting such a person for Life Membership.
 - 4.3. If approved by the membership meeting the member will be granted life membership which allows for their permanent membership of FSP without paying an annual membership fee.

Rights, Responsibilities and Opportunities of Membership

Members have the following *rights*:

- to have poetry considered for publication in electronic and print media by FSP according to the FSP Publishing Policy
- to vote at a members' meeting
- to stand for election to the Management Committee of FSP
- to participate in members' only events
- to nominate for volunteer roles within FSP (e.g. editor, master of ceremonies)

Members have the following *responsibilities*:

- to uphold and support the association to achieve its vision and mission
- conduct themselves according to the FSP Code of Conduct
- to pay the appropriate annual membership fee

Members have the following *opportunities*:

- to promote pertinent events through the FSP's networks and members

Non-members are not eligible to have work considered for publication in the annual FSP reader or on the FSP website.

Procedures

- To become a member a person or organisation must apply using the membership form, pay the annual subscription fee, and be accepted by the Management Committee Membership Subcommittee .
- Upon being granted membership a member will be issued with a membership card which must be presented at FSP events to access member benefits.

Membership Subcommittee and Register

The Management Committee will establish a subcommittee of three to five FSP members, including at least one Management Committee representative, who will form the Membership Management Committee Subcommittee.

A Management Committee representative will chair the subcommittee.

The subcommittee will:

- consider and approve applications for membership; and
- recommend to the Management Committee when a membership application should be rejected on grounds of individual character or previous misconduct; and
- implement the FSP Misconduct and Grievance Policy; and
- keep an up to date register of member's names, financial status and contact details.

The full Management Committee will be required to:

- ratify or overturn any recommendation that an application for membership be rejected; and
- be the body of appeal for the purposes of actions taken under the FSP Misconduct and Grievance Policy.

Any application for membership which is rejected by the Management Committee will entitle the applicant to a full refund of their annual membership fee.