

Opera Australia

Membership Policy

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Relevant legislation/codes	<i>Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)</i> <i>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)</i>
Related policies/documents	Constitution of Opera Australia
Related forms	Application form for Ordinary Members

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1. Purpose

To provide a transparent and consistent process for determining the membership of Opera Australia including the different classes of membership and eligibility requirements for each class.

2. Principles

Opera Australia seeks to form its membership from persons who are committed to Opera Australia and its wellbeing and ongoing success. This includes:

- (a) persons with a current and demonstrable knowledge of opera, musical theatre, music and related fields;
- (b) persons who are actively involved in Opera Australia through participation in its programs and activities;
- (c) persons who demonstrate a strong interest in Opera Australia's wellbeing and its ongoing success; and
- (d) persons who have made a significant contribution to the success of the organisation.

3. Classes of membership

3.1 Opera Australia has the following classes of membership:

- (a) Director Members
- (b) Honorary Life Members
- (c) Ordinary Members.

3.2 A person may hold only one class of membership at any time. For example, if a person is an Ordinary Member and subsequently becomes a Director Member, that person will cease to be an Ordinary Member upon that person becoming a Director Member.

4. General eligibility requirements

A person must meet the following criteria to be eligible to be a member of Opera Australia:

- (a) the person is a natural person;
- (b) the person is at least 18 years of age;
- (c) the person agrees to be bound by the Constitution, and any other rules, by-laws, regulations, policies or standards prescribed by the Board from time to time;
- (d) the person agrees to contribute up to a maximum of \$20 to the assets of Opera Australia if it is wound up while holding membership or within one year afterwards; and

- (e) the person satisfies the membership criteria for the relevant class of member as set out in this policy.

5. Director Members

5.1 Eligibility

A person who is elected or appointed as a director of Opera Australia from time to time will be admitted as a Director Member.

5.2 Membership period

The membership period is the period from the date that person is elected or appointed as a director until the date the person ceases to be a director in accordance with the Constitution.

5.3 Number of Director Members

There are between five and 12 Director Members in accordance with the Constitution.

5.4 Application process

No separate application is required.

6. Honorary Life Member

6.1 Eligibility

- (a) The Board may invite a person to become a Honorary Life Member of Opera Australia.
- (b) The Board has absolute discretion to invite, admit or reject the admission of a person as an Honorary Life Member.

6.2 Membership period

The membership period is the period from the date that person accepts such invitation until the date that membership ceases in accordance with the Constitution.

6.3 Number of Honorary Life Members

There is no limitation of the number of Honorary Life Members.

6.4 Application process

- (a) No separate application is required.
- (b) The Board will ordinarily announce persons to be admitted as Honorary Members at its annual general meeting.

7. Ordinary Members

7.1 Eligibility and assessment criteria

- (a) A person falling within one of the following categories for a period of at least two consecutive years is eligible to apply to be an Ordinary Members from time to time:
 - (i) member of an organisation which support Opera Australia;
 - (ii) member of Opera Australia's Subscriber Program;
 - (iii) member of Opera Australia's Patron Program;
 - (iv) member of the Friends of Opera Australia; or
 - (v) a donor who makes donations to Opera Australia or the Opera Australia Capital Fund of at least \$2,000 per annum.
- (b) The Board must assess applications for membership against the principles of this policy.
- (c) The Board has absolute discretion to admit or reject the admission of a person as an Ordinary Member.

7.2 Membership period

- (a) The initial membership period is the period from the date that person is admitted as an Ordinary Member up to and including 31 December in the year following their admission as an Ordinary Member.
- (b) The Ordinary Member's membership will then renew annually on 1 January each year provided that:
 - (i) the person has not ceased to be a member under the Constitution; and
 - (ii) the person satisfies the eligibility criteria on 1 January of that membership year.

7.3 Number of Ordinary Members

The number of Ordinary Members must not exceed 1,000 Ordinary Members.

7.4 Application process

A person can apply for membership by completing the application form.

8. Definitions

Board means the Board of Directors of Opera Australia

Constitution means the Constitution of Opera Australia