

Youth Work NSW By-Laws

Membership By-Laws

Membership Pathways

There are five pathways for membership of Youth Work NSW:

Full membership

1. Membership via the vocational pathway
2. Membership via the qualifications pathway
3. Membership via portfolio

Associate membership

4. Student Member pathway
5. Associate Member pathway.

Membership Powers

Full members have all the powers prescribed by the Constitution: they are able to stand for office, submit resolutions, call Special General Meetings and vote within the Association. *Student or Associate Members* do not have these formal powers, but make an important contribution to subcommittees, campaigns and the general work of the Association.

Membership Eligibility Criteria

Informed and declared commitment to the Code of Ethics

Informed and declared commitment to the Code of Ethics as endorsed by Youth Work NSW is a condition of entry to membership in the Association. Applicants will be required to evidence the informed nature of their commitment by reference to the Association's Ethics training, Youth Work Ethics training in accredited courses or other active processes of engagement with the Code.

Working with Children Check

Full members are required to supply evidence of a current Working with Children check.

Referees

Full members are required to supply the names and contact details of three referees, at least one of whom must be a youth worker of standing.

Membership Pathways

1. Full membership - Vocational Pathway

A person may be deemed eligible for membership through the Vocational Pathway if the Committee is satisfied they meet the following criteria:

- Completion of a (minimum one year) **Diploma** in Youth Work, including at least 180 hours of Supervised Placement in a youth work setting AND **two** (2) years full time practice as a youth worker.
- OR
- Completion of a **Certificate IV** in Youth Work including at least 120 hours of Supervised Placement in a youth work setting AND **three** (3) years full time practice as a youth worker.
- OR
- Completion of an Approved **Degree in a cognate field**, AND **one** (1) year full time practice in a youth work role with Professional Supervision. OR **one** (1) year full time practice in a youth work role with ten days Professional Development with Youth Work-informed content OR **two** (2) years full time practice as a youth worker.

2. Full membership - Qualifications Pathway

A person may be deemed eligible for membership through the Qualifications pathway if they have completed an *approved university youth work degree qualification* including at least 400 hours of Supervised Practicum Placement; AND either

- Six months full time practice as a youth worker with Professional Supervision: OR;
- Twelve months full time practice as a youth worker.

OR

Two year Diploma or Advanced Diploma in Youth Work AND either

- **one**(1) year full time practice in a youth work role with Professional Supervision. OR
- **one**(1) year full time practice in a youth work role with ten days Professional Development with Youth Work-informed content OR
- **two** (2) years full time practice in a youth work role.

3. Full membership - Application by portfolio pathway

Potential members who do not meet the relevant criteria may apply for membership through the submission of a portfolio as prescribed by the Association. The portfolio may be written or video recorded or may be conducted by interview.

Associated membership

Members joining through the Student and Associate pathway have Associate membership status. They are required to assent to the Code of Ethics. They do not have voting powers and cannot stand for office, but make an important contribution to subcommittees, campaigns and the general work of the Association.

4. Student Member

A person may be deemed eligible for membership as a Student Member if they are currently enrolled in an approved Youth Work qualification or an approved vocational qualification, or have been a youth work student but have not yet met other criteria for membership. We ask

that those who wish to become Student Members affirm the Code of Ethics for Youth Workers in NSW.

5. Association membership - Associate pathway

Associate members do not need to hold an approved qualification or be working in the youth work sector.

Adjustments

If a qualification includes less than the required hours of placement, an additional twelve months full time youth work practice with Professional Supervision may substitute.

Full time is taken to mean at least 30 hours per week. If the practice is not full time, the requirement and corresponding supervision may be calculated on a pro rata basis.

International qualifications will be considered by the Committee on a case-by-case basis. Other qualifications an applicant believes should be accepted will be considered by the Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Approved University Degree Qualifications

Titles of Youth Work University Degrees change from time to time. The youth work degrees provided by the following universities are currently (October 2021) approved:

- Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
- Victoria University
- Australian Catholic University
- Edith Cowan University.

Approval is pending for

- Western Sydney University
- Tabor College
- Eastern College

Approved cognate degrees may include:

- Bachelor degree with a minor in Youth Work
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Masters of Social Work
- Bachelor of Arts in Community Work/Community Development
- Bachelor of Psychology
- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Science (Nursing)
- Bachelor of Education
- Bachelor of Leisure Science
- Bachelor of Sport and Recreation

International youth work degrees, or degrees an applicant believes should be accepted as a cognate degree will be considered by the Committee on a case-by-case basis.

Professional Supervision

Professional Supervision involves regular meetings between the Practitioner and an experienced person with an advanced understanding of youth work practice. The object is to

review, reflect on and challenge the Practitioner's practice from the point of view of their purpose and ethics in order to facilitate their development as a youth work professional.

While issues of efficiency and organisational purpose may be addressed, Professional Supervision differs from management supervision which tends to focus on accountability to organisational goals.

To meet the relevant qualifying standards for full membership, the Association would expect Professional Supervision to be no less than three-weekly.

Continuing Professional Development

To maintain full membership status, the person must undertake ten hours of professional development per calendar year. The Committee may complete random audits of the membership database annually to ensure this ongoing professional development benchmark is being met. Upon request, members must provide proof of their professional development via completion of a pro-forma available from Youth Work NSW.

Accepted professional development platforms include attendance at relevant training days, conferences, online learning/seminars, external professional supervision and reading youth work-related research.

Applying for Membership

A person who wants to become a member must apply in writing via the Association website: www.youthworknsw.org.au.

In order for the application to be assessed by the Committee, the person must include the following with their membership application:

- A signed declaration of commitment to the Code of Ethics, with a statement of evidence of their informed engagement as outlined above.
- An Academic Transcript or Statement of Attainment certificate showing the units completed as part of their qualification (for those applying for Vocational or Qualifications pathways): OR;
- A copy of an Enrolment Form demonstrating the applicant is currently studying an approved university degree qualification or an approved vocational qualification (for those applying for Student Membership). This enrolment form must show the end date of the enrolment period.
- A minimum of three people within the youth sector who may act as a personal and/or professional referee for the applicant, and who are willing to be contacted by a Committee member. At least one of these must be a youth worker of standing.
- Other documentation as required by the criteria specified in the pathway applied for.

Applications received online are reviewed by the Committee at the next committee meeting. Applicants will be contacted after this time with the outcome of their application or requesting further information. An applicant is not considered a member of the Association until they have received notice in writing from the committee confirming their membership acceptance and a membership certificate.

Changes in Membership Eligibility

The eligibility criteria outlined in these By-Laws will come into effect from the Association's next Annual General Meeting.

Should eligibility criteria of the Association change, the Association will honour all existing memberships within their current approved membership pathway, for as long as the member maintains current membership. Should the member allow their membership to lapse, they will be required to re-apply for membership of the Association and this application will be reviewed against the new eligibility criteria.

Membership Fees

The Committee reserves the right to require or amend membership fees in accordance with these By-Laws at any time

If introduced, members will be required to pay these within the agreed timeframe in order to maintain their membership status.

Should a member fail to pay their fees within 60 days of payment being due, their membership will lapse and they will be required to re-apply for membership to the Association.