

## **Membership Policy and Guidelines (May 2016)**

### **Introduction**

Young Life Australia believes in engagement from the wider Australian community and in particular those who are engaged in the organisation in one or more, but not limited to the following capacities; Volunteer club leaders, committee members, donors, prayer support, staff, church partners, camp volunteers, board members, parents and former young people who attended Young Life Australia.

Having a strong membership base allows the organisation to identify and develop engagement from different individuals and communities around the country by giving them a place and identity within Young Life Australia. This helps Young Life Australia to provide a quality service to young people, protecting those who represent Young Life Australia (paid or unpaid) and help fund some of the fixed expenses the organisation incurs by maintaining appropriate insurances to cover our people as they deliver services.

Membership allows the organisation to be able to select suitably qualified board members to serve on the national board.

It is acknowledged that not everyone wants to be a Young Life Australia member with voting rights and have potential involvement in the vision and direction of the organisation by joining the national board or voting at the annual general meeting.

Therefore Young Life Australia has settled on a two tiered membership structure in order to be able to provide maximum engagement from everyone who desires to be a part of the growth of the organisation.

### **Two Membership Types**

#### **1. Association Member**

An association member will have voting rights at AGM's and will have the right to nominate for a position on the Young Life Australia board as per Young Life Australia's constitution. It is recommended that all local committee members join as an Association Member.

#### **2. Young Life Australia Partner**

A Young Life Australia Partner is designed for volunteers, prayer supporters and the like. Becoming a Young Life Australia Partner will be especially helpful to identify who are volunteering for Young Life Australia on a regular basis.

### **Fees**

Each association member is required to pay an annual membership fee of \$40.00. Each Young Life Australia Partner is required to pay annual membership fee of \$20.00

If Young Life Australia Partners want to upgrade from Partner to an association membership they may do so at anytime by simply paying the difference in the membership fee.

## Calling for membership

Young Life Australia Inc. is currently calling for applications for registration as association member of the association and Young Life Australia partners.

As an association member you will receive our newsletter, attend Young Life Australia functions and activities as a member, have insurance coverage as a volunteer at Young Life Australia events and activities and receive voting rights at the Annual General Meeting. Other benefits may be forthcoming in the future.

As a partner you will receive our newsletter, attend Young Life Australia functions and activities as a partner, have insurance coverage as a volunteer at Young Life Australia events and activities. Other benefits may be forthcoming in the future.

## Do I qualify?

As an association member of the organisation or Young Life Australia partner, you represent the organisation and are expected, as far as your involvement in Young Life Australia is concerned, to uphold the Statement of Objects and Statement of Faith. Your membership application must be approved by the Board to be accepted.

## How does nomination occur?

Simply fill out the nomination form, have it seconded by an existing association member and return it to the secretary of Young Life Australia Inc. The application will then be presented at the next Board meeting for approval and, if successful, you shall be notified and requested to pay the required fees within 28 days. Upon receiving these fees, you will be registered as an association member or partner of the association.

Only members can nominate and second those wishing to be members or partners. Applications can be sent to:

Young Life Australia  
PO Box 240,  
West Ryde NSW 1685

## Can I lose my membership?

Only if you:

1. Die
2. Resign - in order to resign your membership or partnership you must be fully paid and notify the secretary in writing no less than one month before expiration. Your resignation will be recorded in the register.
3. Expulsion - you may be expelled or your membership or partnership be suspended if you neglect to comply with the associations rules or act in a manner contrary to the interests of the association.
4. If you fail to pay your membership fees.

### **Do I have access to the register?**

Yes - the register is freely open to be inspected by any member of the association at any reasonable hour.

### **Am I liable for the costs of the association?**

Your liability only extends as far as the payment of membership fees.

## **Statement of Objects of Young Life Australia Incorporated**

1. To introduce the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to adolescent youth who are not personally committed to Him.
2. To befriend adolescent youth and participate with them in a variety of experiences through which the Gospel can be seen, heard and experienced.
3. To assist adolescent youth, particularly those at risk through alienation, aimlessness, addiction or abuse, and including those disadvantaged by broken homes, difficulties at school or unemployment, as resources permit.
4. To establish a Young Life Centre in the Sydney area and in other cities, suburban and country areas of the Association to provide accommodation for counsellors and young people in crisis, counselling and referral services, the coordination of its community and school-based activities, and training programs for its workers.
5. To encourage adolescent youth to develop as whole persons in mind, body, and spirit enabling them to live meaningful and productive lives.
6. To promote the welfare and spiritual health of those who participate in this ministry, that they may do it out of a consistent and growing relationship with Christ and His Church.
7. To work cooperatively with families, schools, churches and community groups in addressing the needs of the young people.
8. To do anything that may be shown to be the will of God in order to make known His love, justice and power, and engage in religious education, enterprise, service and ministry on the following doctrinal basis:
  - (i) The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments been given by divine inspiration are the word of God, the final and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
  - (ii) In the Scriptures God reveals himself as the living and true God, Creator of all things. Perfect in love and righteous in all his ways this one God exists eternally as a Trinity of persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
  - (iii) God made man in his image that he might have fellowship with him. Being estranged from God by his disobedience, sinful man is incapable of a right relationship to God apart from divine grace.

- (iv) The only Mediator between God and man is Jesus Christ our Lord, God's eternal Son, who as man fully shared and fulfilled our humanity in a life of perfect obedience.
- (v) By his death in our place, Jesus revealed the divine love and upheld divine justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having risen bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven, he rules as Lord over all and intercedes for us as our great high priest.
- (vi) The Holy Spirit, through the proclamation of the gospel, renews our hearts, persuading us to repent of our sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit we are led to trust in divine mercy, whereby we are forgiven all our sins, justified by faith through the merit of Christ our Saviour, adopted into God's family as his children and enabled so to live in the world that men may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven.
- (vii) God by his word and Spirit calls sinful men into the fellowship of Christ's body. Thus he creates the one holy, catholic and apostolic church, united in the bonds of love, endowed with the gifts of the Spirit and summoned by Christ to preach the gospel and to administer the sacraments, to relieve human need and to strive for social justice.
- (viii) God's redemptive purpose will be consummated by the return of Christ; to raise the dead, judge all men and establish his glorious kingdom. Those who are apart from Christ shall be eternally separated from God's presence, but the righteous shall live and reign with him forever.