Membership Policy

January 2024

Introduction

The Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses Inc (AASTN) is the peak professional body for Stomal Therapy Nurses in Australia. We invite nursing, medical and allied health professionals and industry members with an interest in stomal therapy and its associated specialties (continence and wound management) to join our Association. By becoming a member of the AASTN, you join with your peers across Australia to speak with one strong voice on behalf of your profession and the people that require your services.

As part of the AASTN Membership we offer a range of benefits to support professional development and to enhance understanding of Stomal Therapy Nursing and its associated specialties. Through the AASTN Website, State and National Conferences and the Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia, the AASTN aims to enable members to keep up to date with relevant news and developments in all domains of Stomal Therapy Nursing.

This AASTN Membership Policy document covers:

1. AASTN Membership categories criteria, entitlements and benefits
2. Membership fees
3. Overseas educated Stomal Therapy Nurses
4. AASTN Membership Categories
   1. Full Membership
   2. Associate Membership
   3. Associate Student Membership
   4. Affiliate Membership
   5. Commercial Membership
   6. Life Member
   7. Honorary Member
5. Full Membership

This membership is for any Registered Nurse with current Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registration and a recognised Stomal Therapy Nursing qualification, except for where that person meets the criteria for an alternative category.

Collectively Rules 14.3 and 16.2 of The Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) Constitution (2017) and Section 6 (B) of the AASTN Executive Handbook and Policy Manual (2020) state a Full Member:

(a) must be a qualified stomal therapy nurse;

(b) must be registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to practice nursing in Australia;

(c) must be resident in Australia;

(d) is entitled to exercise a vote at any General Meeting of the AASTN and take part in the conduct and business affairs of the AASTN;

(e) is entitled to one vote at a General Meeting, except during any period in which that Member is in financial arrears; and

(f) is entitled to wear the badge of the AASTN.

Benefits of Full Membership

* Subscription to the Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia issued quarterly
* Members are able to nominate a State or Territory branch to join, enabling them to receive communication about events and other branch activities occurring in that State or Territory Network
* Access to available AASTN scholarships and grant program (terms and conditions apply)
* Member discounts when attending AASTN conferences and events
* Access to member’s only areas and resources
* Entitled to vote at meetings and participate in AASTN committees

1. Associate Membership

This membership is for any individual who meets one or more of the following criteria:

* is a medical, nursing or allied health professional who has an interest in stomal therapy;
* is a Registered Nurse who has not completed a recognised Stomal Therapy Nursing qualification; and
* is a Stomal Therapy Nurse who no longer has AHPRA registration

Collectively Rule 16.3 of The Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) Constitution (2017) and Section 6 (C) of the AASTN Executive Handbook and Policy Manual (2020) state an Associate Member:

(a) is a medical, nursing or allied health professional who has an interest in stomal therapy;

(b) is not entitled to vote at General Meetings of the AASTN or take part in the conduct of the business affairs of the AASTN; and

(c) is not eligible to hold office in the Association or be a Member of any committee.

Benefits of Associate Membership

* Subscription to the Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia issued quarterly
* Associate Members are able to nominate a State or Territory branch to join, enabling them to receive communication about events and other branch activities occurring in that State or Territory Network
* Member discounts when attending AASTN conferences and events
* Access to member’s only areas and resources

1. Associate Student Membership

This membership is for any Registered Nurse who is currently undertaking a recognised Stomal Therapy Nursing Education Program.

Collectively Rule 16.3 of The Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) Constitution (2017) and Section 6 (C) of the AASTN Executive Handbook and Policy Manual (2020) state an Associate Student Member:

(a) is a medical, nursing or allied health professional who has an interest in stomal therapy;

(b) is not entitled to vote at General Meetings of the AASTN or take part in the conduct of the business affairs of the AASTN; and

(c) is not eligible to hold office in the Association or be a Member of any committee.

Benefits of Associate Student Membership

* Subscription to the Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia issued quarterly
* Associate Student Members are able to nominate a State or Territory branch to join, enabling them to receive communication about events and other branch activities occurring in that State or Territory Network
* Member discounts when attending AASTN conferences and events
* Access to member’s only areas and resources

1. Affiliate Membership

This membership is for any Registered Nurse with a recognised Stomal Therapy Nursing qualification, whose primary purpose of employment is to provide direct clinical services to patients with a stoma and who is self-employed or paid by a company that provides the manufacture or the sale of products, prostheses or pharmaceuticals for profit.

Section 6 (E) of the AASTN Executive Handbook and Policy Manual (2020) states an Affiliate Member:

1. is any Stomal Therapy Nurse whose primary purpose of employment is to provide direct clinical services to patients with a stoma and who is self-employed or paid by a company that provides the manufacture or the sale of products, prostheses or pharmaceuticals for profit;
2. is not entitled to vote at General Meetings of the Association or take part in the conduct of the business and affairs of the Association; and
3. is not eligible to hold office in the Association or be a Member of any Committee.

Benefits of Affiliate Membership

* Subscription to the Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia issued quarterly
* Affiliate Members are able to nominate a State or Territory branch to join, enabling them to receive communication about events and other branch activities occurring in that State or Territory Network
* Member discounts when attending AASTN conferences and events
* Access to member’s only areas and resources

1. Commercial Membership

This membership is for any person in the employ of a company involved, or who is self-employed, in the manufacture or sale of products, prostheses or pharmaceuticals for profit.

Collectively Rule 16.4 of The Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) Constitution (2017) and Section 6 (D) of the AASTN Executive Handbook and Policy Manual (2020) state a Commercial Member:

1. is any person in the employ of a company involved, or who is self-employed, in the manufacture or sale of products, prostheses or pharmaceuticals for profit;
2. is not entitled to vote at General Meetings of the AASTN or take part in the conduct of the business and affairs of the AASTN; and
3. is not eligible to hold office in the Association or be a Member of any Committee.

Benefits of Commercial Membership

* Subscription to the Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia issued quarterly
* Commercial Members are able to nominate a State or Territory branch, enabling them to receive communication about events and other branch activities occurring in that State or Territory Network

1. Life Membership

Life Membership may be awarded by the AASTN Executive Committee to a Full Member in recognition of conspicuous contribution to, and eminence in, the field of Stomal Therapy Nursing.

Rules 16.5 and 17.3 of The Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) Constitution (2017) state a Life Member:

1. is a person who has been a Full Member of the AASTN
2. is entitled to exercise a vote at any General Meeting of the AASTN and take part in the conduct and business affairs of the AASTN;
3. is eligible to be a member of the Branch Committee of the State or territory in which the person is resident;
4. does not pay annual subscription to the AASTN; and
5. will receive the Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia and access to the Minutes of the AGM and the Minutes of Executive Committee meetings.

Procedure for nominating Life Members: Nominations to be sent to the National Executive using a Full Membership Application Form accompanied by a submission detailing the reasons for nomination.

1. Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership may be awarded by the AASTN Executive Committee to a person in recognition of valuable services rendered to the Association or in recognition of conspicuous contribution to Stomal Therapy.

Collectively Rules 16.6 and 17.3 of The Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) Constitution (2017) and Section 6 (G) of the AASTN Executive Handbook and Policy Manual (2020) state an Honorary Member:

(a) is a person who has rendered valuable services to the AASTN and has been awarded honorary membership in recognition of conspicuous contribution to Stomal Therapy;

(b) is entitled to attend all General Meetings of the AASTN and functions organised by the AASTN but is not permitted to vote or hold any office;

(c) does not pay annual subscription to the AASTN; and

(d) will receive the Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia

Procedure for nominating Honorary Members: Nominations to be sent to the National Executive using a Full Membership Application Form accompanied by a submission detailing the reasons for nomination.

1. Membership Fees

Rule 17 of The Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) Constitution (2017) states that:

1. Subject to rule 17.3, Members must each pay to the AASTN by the last day of December in each Year an annual Membership fee in respect of the forthcoming Year
2. The amount of the membership fee payable is determined by the Executive Committee and approved by the Members at the General Meeting
3. No annual subscription is payable by a Life or Honorary Member
4. Membership ceases automatically if the annual subscription is in arrears by more than 60 days
5. Any Member who wishes to re-join the AASTN after the cessation of their membership will be required to pay any applicable re-joining fee, as determined by the Executive Committee from time to time
   * Full Members - $130
   * Associate Members - $95
   * Associate Student Members - $75
   * Affiliate Members - $95
   * Commercial Members - $100
   * Life Members - no membership fee
   * Honorary Members - no membership fee
6. Overseas Educated Stomal Therapy Nurses

The AASTN welcomes applications for Full Membership from Registered Nurses who have gained their Stomal Therapy Nursing qualifications from outside of Australia. As there can be significant differences in educational programs and levels of experience between countries, the AASTN will assess each application against the AASTN Stomal Therapy Nursing Education Program guidelines. If supporting evidence does not demonstrate the required standard of education, the AASTN will recommend the applicant undertake further education as appropriate. The applicant will be welcomed as an Associate Member until the submitted evidence has been recognised.

Section 6 (B) of the AASTN Executive Handbook and Policy Manual (2020) state any Stomal Therapy Nurse who has qualifications from outside of Australia must provide the following documentation:

* Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency Registration to practice nursing in Australia (certified copy)
* Post registration certificate of Stomal Therapy Nursing, including a copy of course transcript if available
* Statement of service or reference from most recent employer in country of origin
* Statement of service or a reference from current Australian employer
* Current curriculum vitae with supportive evidence related to stoma, wound and continence education

Pathway

* Complete Full Membership Application form
* Send application form with supporting documentation to the AASTN Membership Officer for evaluation by the National Executive
* The applicant will be notified in writing of the outcome
* If supporting evidence does not demonstrate the required standard of education as per the AASTN Stomal Therapy Nursing Education Program guidelines, the AASTN Executive will recommend the applicant undertake further education as appropriate