

Membership protocol

Ghanaians Queensland

This document outlines the membership policy for Ghanaians Queensland Inc. The policy is in line with the association's constitution.

This policy is effective from 1 August 2012.

About Ghanaians Queensland

Ghanaians Queensland is about connecting all Ghanaians in Queensland, celebrating our rich cultures and promoting our homeland to the outside world.

Our objectives are to:

- represent Ghanaians in Queensland by promoting friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation among our community
- advocate for and foster the interests and welfare of all our community
- establish and maintain communication, consultation and cooperation in our community through social and cultural relationships
- promote Australia-Ghana friendship through economic, political, social and cultural relationships
- improve where possible the lot of the people of Ghana

Becoming a member

Anyone in the Australian community can become a member of Ghanaians Queensland under the following categories.

Ordinary members

Ordinary members are adult Ghanaians (or of Ghanaian heritage¹) or spouse² of a Ghanaian residing in Queensland. The number of ordinary members is unlimited.

Ghanaians Queensland offers ordinary memberships under the following categories.

Individual - an adult Ghanaian or spouse of a Ghanaian person resident in Queensland.

The membership fee is \$30 per individual member.

Couple - an adult Ghanaian and his or her spouse in Queensland.

The membership fee is \$40 per couple.

Family – an adult Ghanaian, his or her spouse and all their children/guardianships under 18 years of age.

The membership fee is \$50.

Youth – A Ghanaian between 18 and 25 years of age

The membership fee is \$20

Associate members

An associate member is an adult who is not a Ghanaian (or of Ghanaian heritage) or spouse of a Ghanaian

The membership fee is \$30 for adults over 25 years old and \$20 for young people between 18 and 25 years of age.

Life members

A life membership shall be awarded to a Ghanaian (or of Ghanaian heritage) for outstanding contribution to the association over a long period (at least five years). Life membership can only be awarded by majority vote of the association's members at a general meeting. Life members will not pay membership fees once they are granted the honour.

Honorary members

An honorary member shall be any other person not covered in the classes above but who has shown to have sufficient interest in the association and has demonstrated their willingness to make a positive contribution to the community.

Honorary membership can only be awarded by a majority vote of the Management Committee.

Honorary members will not pay membership fees once they are granted the honour.

How to apply

To become a member, complete the relevant membership form, sign it and forward it to the Secretary along with the corresponding membership fee.

The Secretary will accept all membership applications.

At the next Management Committee meeting, members of the committee will formally propose and

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second applications with the meeting minutes to reflect this process and the names of the applicants it applies to.

Ordinary memberships applications will be processed by the Secretary and the new members issued with a membership receipt.

The management committee will consider and approve or reject associate membership applications at Management Committee meeting by majority vote.

Once approved the Secretary will issue the new member a membership receipt.

If the Management Committee rejects a membership application, the Secretary will advise the applicant and provide a reason. The applicant will then have an opportunity to appeal the rejection to the Management Committee.

Terminating membership

A member may resign from the association at any time by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.

The resignation will take effect at the time the notice is received by the Secretary unless a later date is specified in the notice.

The Management Committee may vote by majority to terminate a membership if a member:

- fails to pay membership dues and is in arrears for more than two full years
- conducts himself or herself in a manner that brings the association into disrepute.

The member concerned shall be given full and fair opportunity to present their case and if the Management Committee resolves to terminate the membership, it shall instruct the Secretary to advise the member in writing accordingly.

Appeal against rejection or termination of membership

A person whose application of membership has been rejected or whose membership has been terminated may lodge an appeal in writing within one month with the Secretary.

The appeal will then be presented to all association members for a vote.

Register of members

The Management Committee keeps a register of the names residential addresses and telephone numbers and joining date of all members of the association, as required by the Office of Fair Trading.

Privacy statement

Ghanaians Queensland is committed to protecting the privacy of members' personal information. This commitment applies to information that we collect on your membership forms and contact updates. All your information is kept confidential and only Management Committee members will be privy to the information.

Find out more

If you would like further information about this membership policy or how to become a member, contact:

The Secretary
Ghanaians Queensland
ghanaians@ghanaqld.org
www.ghanaqld.org

This policy was updated in January 2017.

Notes

¹ Ghanaian heritage - A person of Ghanaian heritage is or was a Ghanaian citizen, or who has a parent or grandparent who is or was a Ghanaian citizen

² Spouse – a spouse is a wife or long term partner nominated by a person of Ghanaian heritage as their spouse. An ordinary member can only have one person as their spouse at any given time.