

401 Membership Admission Policy

1. Policy Intent

The members of Link Housing play an important role in the governance of the company. The purpose of having a Membership base is to:

- Ensure decisions are made in the best interests of Link Housing's tenants;
- Approve changes to the Constitution and vote at General Meetings; and
- Represent the diverse groups of Link Housing's tenants.

The Board of Directors (The Board) is committed to ensuring that members are representatives of our stakeholders as well as being capable of undertaking their duties and responsibilities as a member of Link Housing. We seek as members a mix of tenants as well as representatives of organisations that are supporters of Link Housing including support providers, local councils, business partners and interested persons.

2. Context

Link Housing is an Australian public company limited by guarantee established under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Commonwealth).

Link Housing's Constitution at Section 7 describes the process for selection and removal of members which is undertaken by the Board.

A member is a person entered on Link Housing's Register of Members as a member.

Lifetime membership can be granted to an individual due to their significant past service to, or relationship with Link Housing. This may include a community member, a service partner, retiring director, or a former staff member.

3. Policy

In accordance with Section 7.1 (a) of Link's Constitution, the minimum number of members must be 20. Link Housing is to use its best endeavours to promote membership nominations with the following aims:

- Individuals with an interest in Link Housing's objectives;
- Ensure a balance of representation between members who are tenants and members who are other stakeholders;
 - Tenants in our social and affordable housing properties;
 - Occupants of our Specialist Disability Accommodation properties under the National Disability Insurance Scheme and/or Guardians, carers and responsible persons;
 - Representatives of or organisations who support Link Housing;
 - All elected non-executive directors – except the Executive Director; and
 - Lifetime members.

4. Application Process:

- 4.1 All membership applications are to be submitted to the Board using the Membership Application Form.
- 4.2 The Board will consider each application for membership of Link Housing individually and in accordance with the Constitution.
- 4.2.1 A person may self-nominate or be nominated by an existing member. The application must show that the nominee has consented to becoming a member.
- 4.2.2 The nomination must be proposed and seconded by an existing member.
- 4.2.3 The application must outline the reasons for membership and how the applicant intends to contribute to Link Housing's capacity to fulfil its objectives.
- 4.3 With the exception of Link Housing Directors or proposed Directors, the nominee must not be a current employee or any person eligible to receive wages, salary or other remuneration from Link Housing.
- 4.4 As per the Constitution all Non-Executive Directors are required to be members.
- 4.5 Except where it is impractical to do so, the Board should consider every application at the next meeting after the application is received.
- 4.6 The Board have the discretion to refuse any membership application.
- 4.7 The decision of the Board is final and binding.

5. Membership Renewal

Memberships will automatically be renewed each year on or before 31 August, unless a member has indicated that they wish to resign.

Annually, Link Housing will communicate with members to confirm their interest in continuing their membership. This will involve seeking written notice from any members who wish to resign, as per Section 8.1(b) of the Constitution, as well as ascertaining whether any memberships should be terminated under Section 8.3 of the Constitution if the whereabouts of the member have not been known for 12 months or more or the person has failed to demonstrate that they continue to be interested in and supportive of the objectives of Link Housing.

6. Legislative and Regulatory Framework

- Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth)
- Link Housing Constitution
- National Regulatory System for Community Housing
- Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission
- National Community Housing Standards, May 2010 Ed