

General Membership

To be eligible for general membership of AHISA, the Head must be the Head of a school which is a non-government school, is not run for profit and which has the right and the power to determine its own curriculum offerings and method of operation.

The ultimate responsibility for the management and administration of the school must be invested in the governing body and the school, more often than not, would enrol pupils to the final year of secondary schooling.

However, providing the Head meets all other requirements for membership it is possible for Heads of schools that terminate before Year 12 and of stand-alone Primary Schools to become General Members.

It should be noted that the systemic or non-systemic nature of the school is not, in itself, a prohibiting factor. Each school generally only has one individual with responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the school (and who meet the general requirements for membership).

Criteria for General Membership

General Membership is open to a person who:

- (a) ordinarily has the day to day freedom and responsibility for managing the school, its staff and students;
- (b) ordinarily has the day to day freedom and responsibility to effectively implement the school's shared vision within the strategic framework determined by the school's governing body;
- (c) ordinarily has the day to day freedom and responsibility to demonstrate and apply expertise to effectively lead and manage the school;
- (d) ordinarily has the day to day freedom and responsibility at the school to learn, grow, develop self and build professional expertise;
- (e) ordinarily is the usual channel of communication between the school and the school community (including without limitation its staff, students, parents and alumni);
- (f) has the freedom and willingness to pursue the Objects of AHISA and to abide by a Member's obligations under this constitution; and
- (g) satisfies any additional criteria as formulated by the Board from time to time as By-Laws.
- (h) The head must have a suitable contract, which amongst other things identifies the characteristics of a school which are necessary for the head to be a member of AHISA as indicated in sections (a)-(e) above.

It should be noted that, where a head leads an independent school, the following determines his or her eligibility for membership:

- (a) The nature of the head's relationship with the governing body
- (b) The head's rights and responsibilities as outlined above.

Rights and privileges of General Members

General Members may attend and speak at General and Branch Meetings, and have the right to vote.

Obligations of General Members

Clauses 11.1 and 11.2 of the Constitution will apply to General Members as follows.

11.1 Consequences of Membership

Members acknowledge and agree that:

- (a) this Constitution constitutes a contract between each of them and AHISA and that they are bound by and must comply with:
 - (1) this Constitution and the By-Laws; and
 - (2) any determination, resolution or policy which may be made or passed by the Board or any duly authorised committee in accordance with this Constitution;
- (b) by submitting to this Constitution and the By-Laws they are subject to the jurisdiction of AHISA;
- (c) this Constitution is made in pursuit of the Objects and operates to create uniformity in the way in which the Objects are to be conducted, encouraged, promoted and administered in Australia;
- (d) this Constitution and the By-Laws are necessary and reasonable for promoting the Objects and particularly the advancement and protection of education in Australia; and
- (e) subject only to this Constitution, they are entitled to all the rights, advantages, privileges and services of AHISA membership.

11.2 Obligation of Members

AHISA and its Members agree:

- (a) to act with professionalism, in good faith and loyalty to each other to promote and improve education in Australia through the maintenance and enhancement of AHISA, its standards, quality and reputation for the collective purpose of the Members;
- (b) not to do or permit to be done any act or thing which might adversely affect or derogate from the standards, quality and reputation of education in Australia and its maintenance and enhancement;
- (c) to make full and proper disclosure to each other of all matters of importance to AHISA and education in Australia;
- (d) to ensure that no Member acquires a material or financial advantage at the expense of AHISA, any other Member or education in Australia;
- (e) to operate with mutual trust and confidence in pursuit of the Objects;
- (f) to promote the economic, spiritual and academic success, strength and stability of each other and act interdependently with each other in pursuit of the Objects;
- (g) to do all things reasonably necessary to enable the Objects to be achieved; and
- (h) to at all times act for the advantage of AHISA in its pursuit of the Objects.

Subscriptions and Fees

The fees for General Membership will be invoiced when the membership is activated. General Membership Fees and Branch Membership Fees are invoiced from National Office. Subscription is for 12 months from January-December, members invoiced after 30th June will be at 50% of annual fees. No refunds will be offered if the head leaves their position part-way through the year.

Nominations for General Membership

1. Initial contact is made with the state branch chair, who will discuss membership criteria, obligations, benefits and the process. The offer to submit an application is made.
2. The applicant fills out an online application, which is forwarded to the applicant's school board chair for endorsement.
3. The application moves to the state branch chair for endorsement.
4. The application is forwarded to members of AHISA's national board for endorsement.
5. National office processes the application and membership becomes active.
6. An information pack is sent out as well as login details for the AHISA website.

Cessation of Membership

A person will cease to be a General Member:

- (a) if the person leaves the school;
- (b) if the person chooses to discontinue their membership by notifying AHISA;
- (c) for any other reason by which a Member ceases to be a Member under the Constitution.