



● **YOUTH MEMBERSHIP POLICY - ENGAGING 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS IN AIA GOVERNANCE**

Policy no: BP13

● **Policy detail**

Policy description	Policy regarding the responsibilities and scope of the Under 18s membership category.
Policy applies to:	Employees, volunteers, members
Policy owner:	Activism and Membership Committee

● **Policy approval**

Approved by Activism and Membership Committee:	10 June 2021
Approved by Board:	21 June 2022, 16 July 2024
Effective date:	21 June 2022
Publishing:	External Document for publishing on website
Version control:	Final version 1
Version number:	1
Next review date:	July 2027

1. Policy scope and purpose

1.1 Introduction

Amnesty International Australia supports the engagement of young people through creating a distinct category of membership for youth aged 16 and 17 (**Youth Membership**).

1.2 Purpose and Overview

1. This Policy sets out the scope of Youth Membership at AIA, a category of membership exclusively available to members aged 16 and 17 years old (**Youth Members**).
2. The Policy confirms the board decision that no fee will be applicable to any Youth Membership.
3. This Policy details the rights and obligations of Youth Members; the process of application for Youth Membership; and the principles and controls applicable to AIA's engagement with Youth Members.
4. This Policy is intended to meet the requirements of applicable child protection legislation, the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) and the AIA Constitution.

1.3 Scope and application

This Policy applies to all Youth Members, and all Employees and volunteers of AIA.

2. Policy Content

2.1 AIA Constitution

Pursuant to clause 11 of the AIA Constitution, the National Board has the power to create categories of membership and to set the fees for such membership. The National Board has created the category of Youth Member to enable young people aged 16 and 17 years old to participate in the governance of AIA and apply for a limited membership role with AIA before they become eligible for full membership in accordance with the *Corporations Act* at 18 years of age.

2.2 Eligibility and Application

Any person aged 16 and 17 years old may apply for Youth Membership at AIA by submitting an application on the AIA website. Upon submitting an application, written permission of their parent and/or guardian will be required to activate their Youth Membership.

2.3 Parental Consent

Upon signing up for Youth Membership via the AIA website, Youth Members will be asked to submit a signed parental consent form set out in Appendix 1 to this Policy which must be

sent via email to AIA at supporter@amnesty.org.au. Youth Members will only be able to attend in-person events upon receipt of their signed parental consent form.

2.4 Attendance at Events

A Youth Member must also provide AIA with a signed parental consent form in advance of a Youth Member attending their first in-person AIA event. If they didn't submit a signed parental consent at time of signing-up, they will be required to submit their signed parental consent before attending their first in-person AIA event.

2.5 Scope of Youth Membership

Youth Membership entitles a Youth Member to do the following:

- (a) attend any AIA General Meeting (either in person or via video conference);
- (b) nominate for General Meeting Voter or Activism Leadership Committee positions;
- (c) vote for General Meeting Voters and Activism Leadership Committee members;
- (d) submit draft resolutions for consideration at general meetings;
- (e) receive relevant exclusive membership materials from AIA;
- (f) Participate in the AIA Activism Forum; and
- (g) attend member-exclusive AIA events.

2.6 Limitations on Youth Membership

Youth Members are precluded from being directors of AIA by the *Corporations Act* so may not stand for election to board positions. Youth Members are also precluded from nominating for positions that include national and international travel, including but not limited to the Global Assembly Youth Delegate position.

2.7 Costs

Upon application Youth Members will not be charged an annual membership fee until the Youth member reaches 18 years of age. Youth Members will not be automatically charged a membership fee once they turn 18 years of age, however they will be encouraged to sign up to become a paying member of AIA. Youth Members will be liable to pay \$1 in the event that AIA is wound up, in accordance with the AIA Constitution.

2.8 Transitioning to Full Membership

When the Youth Members reaches 18 years of age, the Youth Membership will be deactivated. On or before this date, AIA will notify the Youth Member of the upcoming expiry of Youth Membership and the Youth Member will be given the option to pay the full membership fee and transition to full membership of AIA.

2.9 Youth Member Support Contact

The Youth Coordinator (staff) and Youth Advisory Group Representatives (volunteers) from their region (as outlined in the AIA Constitution) will act as Youth Member Support Contacts with Working With Children Checks applicable to the relevant jurisdiction and will be available to support Youth Members.

2.10 Privacy

AIA will collect, process and store all personal information it receives in connection with Youth Members in accordance with its Privacy Policy (available at: <https://www.amnesty.org.au/legal/#Privacypolicy>).

3. Policy governance

3.1 Availability of this Policy

This Policy is available to AIA Employees, volunteers, Youth Members, activists and members of the public via the AIA website.

3.3 Review

A formal review of this Policy will be undertaken every three years or more frequently if required due to legislative changes or changes to AIA's operations.

3.4 Board approval

Material amendments to this Policy are to be first approved by the Activism and Membership Committee prior to obtaining the formal approval of the Board.

Appendix 1: Example Form of Parental Consent for Youth Membership Application

Parental Consent - AIA Youth Membership

Your child wishes to become a Youth Member of Amnesty International Australia (**AIA**). The scope, rights and responsibilities of this membership can be found at:

<https://www.amnesty.org.au/legal/>

If you support your child's application for Youth Membership and give permission for your child to participate in Youth Membership activities at AIA, please complete all sections of this form in full and provide your signature at section 3.

If you have any questions about Youth Membership, this form, or how we collect, store and process the personal information you may provide to us in connection with our engagement with you, please feel free to contact: supporter@amnesty.org.au and/or consult our Privacy Policy (available at: <https://www.amnesty.org.au/legal/#Privacypolicy>); and the AIA Constitution (available at: <https://www.amnesty.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Amnesty-International-Australia-Constitution-2021-final.pdf>).

Section 1 Parent or Guardian responsible for child (see additional information regarding persons appropriate to provide consent)	
Given name/s	
Family name	
Relationship to applicant	
Address	Street: Suburb: State: Postcode:
Telephone (<i>mobile</i>)	
Telephone (<i>home</i>)	
Email	
Nominated contact person <i>Please provide details of another</i>	Relationship: Address: Mobile: Email:

person who may be contacted by the application or AIA for correspondence and in the event of an emergency.

Section 2

Applicant submitting an application for Youth Membership at AIA

Given name/s

Family name

Date of birth

Address (if different from above)

Telephone (mobile)

Telephone (home)

Email

Section 3

Parent/Guardian consent to Applicant's application for Youth Membership

Permission

I (full name of parent/guardian) _____ give my permission for:

- the Applicant to become a Youth Member of AIA;
- AIA to collect information from me and the Applicant with regard to the applicant's Youth Membership in accordance with the AIA Privacy Policy;
- AIA to contact the Applicant over the phone and via email regarding Youth Membership and other AIA activities;
- AIA to charge the Youth Member a \$1 fee should AIA be wound up, in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth); and
- AIA to communicate with me on the Applicant's behalf and for AIA to take instructions from me on behalf of the Applicant; and

- For the Applicant to stand for election for Activism Leadership Committee and General Meeting Voter positions and to hold those positions if elected.

Waiver

I (full name of parent/guardian) _____ understand and agree that:

- [insert any necessary waivers such as waiving the right to communicate with me on the Applicant's behalf or take instructions from me on the Applicant's behalf]

Optional Media release

I (full name of parent/guardian) _____ give my permission for AIA to record content featuring the applicant (including photographs and videos) and use these for Amnesty International's internal and external media purposes.

- Yes
- No

Signature	
Date	