

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to set out the process Sonshine has implemented to encourage our community of interest to be more involved and invested in the station by becoming registered members of Good News Broadcasters Inc (“the Association”). This Policy is one of a number of initiatives and measures we take to show that we are actively promoting community participation in the operation, management and governance of the station.

2 COMMUNITY RADIO BROADCASTING CODES OF PRACTICE

The Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice (“Codes of Practice”) are made by the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia in consultation with the ACMA. Sonshine is legally obliged to comply with the Codes of Practice and as an overarching document they will necessarily inform all of Sonshine’s Policies.

3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 The Community Broadcasting Participation Guidelines necessarily inform this Policy and the key points contained in those Guidelines which are relevant to membership of the Association are:

- Licensees must encourage members of the communities they serve to participate in the management and running of the station.
- Membership and member involvement are key ways for communities to participate in the operations and management of a service.
- Any restrictions on membership should be reasonable.

3.2 Rule 7 of the Association’s Rules (“Constitution”) determines the application process for an individual, organisation or church to become a registered member of the Association.

4 INTERPLAY WITH VOLUNTEERS AND FAMILY PARTNERS

4.1 While encouraging individuals to become registered members is an important part of Sonshine’s community participation initiatives, being a registered member is not a prerequisite for:

- Becoming a Family Partner by committing to making regular financial contributions to the ministry of Sonshine; or
- Volunteering with the station in capacities other than board membership.

For example, a person who wants to contribute to Sonshine as a volunteer announcer, office worker or technical support person can do so without having to become a registered member of the Association.

5 POLICY

- 5.1 Members of our community of interest are encouraged to become registered members of the Association which entitles them to:
- 5.1.1 propose items of business, attend and vote at general meetings of the Association; and
 - 5.1.2 nominate themselves or others for membership of Sonshine's board of management.
- 5.2 Sonshine actively encourages and invites individuals, organisations and churches to become registered members by:
- 5.2.1 regularly promoting the benefits of membership through on-air announcements, social media, Sonshine's newsletter and through one-on-one contact with Family Partners and donors;
 - 5.2.2 publishing via the website an expression of interest form and making the membership application form freely available once the proposed member's expression of interest has been submitted online.
- 5.3 Sonshine's Relationship team will ensure that:
- 5.3.1 all membership inquiries received are regularly followed up;
 - 5.3.2 all membership applications received are provided to Sonshine's board for consideration within 2 months of receiving the application;
 - 5.3.3 applicants are promptly notified of the outcome of their application; and
 - 5.3.4 the Relationships team regularly and intentionally develops and implements initiatives to attract and retain registered members.
- 5.4 Subject to the requirements of the Constitution and the proposed member accepting the Association's Statement of Faith, membership of the Association is open to any individual or entity within the community of interest and Sonshine does not cap membership numbers.
- 5.5 Signed applications must be accepted by Sonshine's board unless:
- 5.5.1 the applicant does not accept the Association's Statement of Faith; or
 - 5.5.2 the board is satisfied that the applicant has acted or is likely to act in a manner which:
 - is incompatible with the objects and values of the Association as set out in Rule 3 of the Constitution; or
 - is detrimental to the interests of the Association.



- 5.6 If an application is rejected by Sonshine's board the person who made the application is entitled to request the appointment of a mediator and/or appeal the decision in accordance with Rule 7 of the Constitution.
- 5.7 If the board determines that a membership fee is to apply under Rule 8 of the Constitution, then membership may cease if a member's fee remains unpaid for a period of 4 months or more in accordance with Rule 10a)iii of the Constitution.
- 5.8 Sonshine's board may suspend or expel a member under Rule 10a)i or 10a)ii if a member contravenes the Constitution or acts detrimentally to the interests of the Association.
- 5.9 Sonshine will keep a register of members in accordance with Rule 11 of the Constitution.

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Related Documents

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Governance	GNBI Rules; Community Broadcasting Participation Guidelines 2010.
Policy	2.1 Community Participation Policy 2.2 Volunteers Policy