

# AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RUDOLF STEINER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INC. (AARSECE)

## · Criteria and Procedures for All Membership Applications

AARSECE invites three kinds of memberships:

- A. Individual Members
- B. Developing Institutional Members
- C. Full Institutional Members

### **A. Criteria for Individual Membership:**

Persons interested in supporting the AARSECE's work in delivering Steiner / Waldorf early childhood education and care to children from birth to seven years. Individual members do not have to be working in the field of early childhood.

#### **Individual Membership entitles:**

- Information regarding upcoming Steiner / Waldorf EC International conferences and events.
- Invitations to Steiner / Waldorf EC AGMs, regional and national meetings and conferences in Australia.
- Information regarding EC events, educational issues and developments in Australia and overseas.
- Advice towards accessing support and professional development in the field of Steiner / Waldorf early childhood education and care.
- Possibility of financial assistance (after the first year of membership) to members to attend Steiner / Waldorf EC Conferences.
- Financial discounts for AARSECE conferences or workshops when these are offered to members
- The member's right to vote in regional meetings or AGMs.

### **Procedure to apply for an Individual Membership:**

An annual membership fee is payable on submission of an *Individual Membership Application form*. Payment options are on the application form, which can be retrieved from the Steiner Education Australia (SEA), website:

<http://www.steinereducation.edu.au/about/associate-members/>

### **B. Criteria for Developing Institutional Membership:**

Developing Institutional Members are kindergartens, childcare centres and pre-schools that are either affiliated with a Rudolf Steiner / Waldorf school, or are independent, and meet the following criteria:

- The school or centre is registered, licensed and complies with government regulations regarding accreditation standards.
- The school or centre strives to deliver a Steiner/ Waldorf program and demonstrates a commitment to working with Steiner / Waldorf EC educational principles.
- The school or centre works visibly with Steiner EC pedagogical principles and strives to represent this educational impulse in the wider community.

- Senior EC staff members working within the school or centre have a qualification or training in Steiner EC Education.
- The kindergarten or centre is functioning as a Steiner/ Waldorf early childhood organisation, and demonstrates viability in terms of finances, enrolment and staffing, which has been maintained for two years or more prior to attaining Full Institutional Membership.
- The school or centre pursues ongoing and regular study of Anthroposophy within their college or EC faculty.
- The school or centre seeks to actively participate in Steiner/ Waldorf EC regional meetings and conferences on an ongoing basis.

**Developing Institutional Membership entitles the member to:**

- Information regarding upcoming Steiner / Waldorf EC International conferences and events.
- Invitations to Steiner / Waldorf EC AGMs, regional and national meetings and conferences in Australia.
- Information regarding EC events, educational issues and developments in Australia and overseas.
- Advice and/or assistance towards accessing support and professional development in the field of Steiner / Waldorf early childhood education and care.
- EC organisational advice.
- Access to EC mentoring that can assist with further developing Steiner / Waldorf EC education and care.

**Procedure to apply for a Developing Institutional Membership:**

- Contact the EC Regional Representative in your area (contact details are available on the SEA website). All expressions of interest from schools or centres wishing to develop towards Full Institutional Membership will be warmly received. All relevant information, including costs, application and assessment forms will be discussed and forwarded after contact.

An annual membership fee is payable on submission of a *Developing Institutional Membership Application Form* until Full Institutional Membership is attained. Payment options are on the application form, which can be retrieved from the Steiner Education Australia (SEA), website:

<http://www.steinereducation.edu.au/about/associate-members/>

An ‘**Evaluation Visit**’ to the applicant school or centre will be conducted by either a regional representative of AARSECE or an appointed EC assessor. Areas to be observe are:

- The school or centre’s delivery of a Steiner / Waldorf EC program.
- The quality of implementation of Steiner EC pedagogical practices and care.
- Compliance with government regulations.

**C. Criteria for Full Institutional Membership;**

Full Institutional members are kindergartens, childcare centres and pre-schools that are either affiliated with a Rudolf Steiner / Waldorf school, or are independent, and which meet the following criteria:

- The school or centre is registered, licensed and complies with government regulations regarding accreditation standards.
- The school or centre delivers a Steiner/ Waldorf program.
- The school or centre works visibly with Steiner EC pedagogical principles and is able to represent this educational impulse in the wider community.
- Senior EC staff members working within the school or centre have a qualification or training in Steiner EC education.
- The school or centre has functioned as a Steiner / Waldorf EC organisation for more than two years, and has demonstrated ongoing viability of finances, enrolment and staffing.
- The EC staff is committed to ongoing and regular study of Anthroposophy within their college or EC faculty.
- The school or centre actively participates in Steiner/ Waldorf EC regional meetings and conferences on an ongoing basis.
- The school or centre is willing to help carry the work of AARSECE within their region.

**Full Institutional Membership entitles the member to:**

- Information regarding upcoming Steiner / Waldorf EC International conferences and events.
- Invitations to Steiner / Waldorf EC AGMs, regional and national meetings and conferences in Australia.
- Information regarding EC events, educational issues and developments in Australia and overseas.
- Advice and/or assistance towards accessing support and professional development in the field of Steiner / Waldorf EC education and care.
- Listing of the school or centre on the register of AARSECE.
- Membership to, and listing on, the International Association for Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE) register.
- Possibility of financial assistance for one staff member to attend Steiner/ Waldorf EC conferences.
- Financial discounts for one staff member, where offered, to attend AARSECE conferences or workshops
- One vote from a staff member representing the school or centre in regional meetings or AGMs.
- EC organisational advice.
- Access to EC mentoring that can assist with further developing Steiner / Waldorf EC education and care.
- The opportunity and responsibility for the kindergarten or centre to support the ongoing work of AARSECE within their region.

**Procedure to apply for a Full Institutional Membership:**

*In accordance with the constitution of the Australian Association membership, status shall be granted by a majority of the Core Group members at the next Core Group meeting following the receipt of an application.*

**Re-activation of Full Institutional Membership:**

If Membership fees have not been paid **for two years or more** a 're-activation' fee is payable on submission of a *Full Institutional Membership Re-activation Form* until Full Institutional Membership is reinstated. Payment options are on the Re-Activation form, which can also be retrieved from the Steiner Education Australia (SEA) website:

<http://www.steinereducation.edu.au/about/associate-members/>

- \*An Evaluation Visit (see below) to the school or centre may also be required by recommendation of the Regional representative. This is based on a case-by-case review.
- If Membership fees have not been paid for **less than two years** a *Full Institutional Membership Renewal Form* and fee will be required.

\* An '**Evaluation Visit**' to the applicant school or centre will be conducted by either a regional representative of AARSECE or an appointed EC assessor. Areas to be observed include:

- The school or centre's delivery of Steiner / Waldorf EC program.
- The quality of implementation of Steiner EC pedagogical practices and care
- Compliance with government regulations.

*This criterion for AARSECE membership and application has been developed in accordance with the membership criteria of International Association for Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE).*