

## Membership Categories

**FULL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

### **Fellow – Special Category**

Those practitioners who, by their longevity and commitment to the field, are recognised by their peers at this high level. A call for nominations for Fellowship will be made once per year. A panel of practitioners selected by the association will then assess each nominee and a limited number of Fellowships will be awarded. Nominees must have at least 15 years experience in the field and a current full membership with the WAAYW.

### **Certified Practitioner**

As with 'Graduate Practitioner' plus a further **2 years** Paid Practice in the Youth Sector of more than 20 hours per week\*.

OR

Entry through **Sunset Clause** (see following page)

### **Member**

**Diploma in Youth Work** plus **2 years** Paid Practice in Youth Work of more than 20 hours per week\*.

OR

**Cert IV in Youth Work** plus **4 years** Paid Practice in Youth Work of more than 20 hours per week\*.

### **Graduate Practitioner**

**An Approved Degree<sup>^</sup> in a Human Services Discipline**

PLUS EITHER

**400 hours** of Supervised Practicum Placement, part of which must have been in a youth work setting.

OR

**2 years** Paid Practice in Youth Work of more than 20 hours per week\*.

### **Associate Membership – Not Full Membership**

A person who has met the Qualification Requirement of Full Membership but has not as yet met the Practice Experience Requirements. For example Cert IV in Youth Work holders who have less than 4 years experience.

### **Friend of the Association – Not Full Membership**

A person affiliated with Youth Work who does not meet the requirements of Full Membership. For example Students, Unqualified Youth Workers, Cert III in Youth Work holders, Volunteers, Other interested parties.

\*Or, if practice was less than 20 hours per week, an equivalent number of years (ie. 1 year at 20 hours per week is equivalent to 2 years at 10 hours per week). If practice was more than 20 hours no decrease in years is applicable.

<sup>^</sup>Approved Degrees include Youth Work, Social Work, Social Welfare, Community Development, Psychology. This list is by no means exhaustive and other Degrees will be included or excluded as they are presented to the Association. The list of approved degrees is listed on the WAAYW website: [www.waayw.org](http://www.waayw.org).

## Other Requirements

### Commitment to Ethical Practice

To be eligible for membership a practitioner must agree to sign and commit to the following declaration:

**“As a member of the Western Australian Association of Youth Workers, I agree to adopt the Western Australian Youth Work Code of Ethics in its entirety as the standard in my work with young people. In roles where I am unable to fulfil the obligations of the Youth Work Code of Ethics, I will not refer to my role as ‘Youth Work’ but I will continue to aspire to practice according to the standards set by the code.”**

### Working with Children Check (WWCC) or a Federal Police Clearance

A 'Working with Children Check' is now a legal requirement for work with young people. It is only available to those workers who have direct face to face contact with young people. Some people in the profession, such as those in policy or management, no longer have contact with young people and are therefore ineligible for a WWCC. In these situations a Federal Police Clearance that is less than 2 years old will be accepted. If you do have face to face contact in your role, but have not yet applied for a WWCC, a Federal Police Clearance will not be accepted as a substitute.

## Options for those without relevant qualifications

### Sunset Clause – more than 15 years experience

Until 2011, a Sunset Clause will be open to those practitioners who have extensive experience in the field but have not gained relevant formal qualifications. To be eligible for Membership under the Sunset Clause a practitioner must have at least 15 years paid experience in the wider youth work field and will be required to submit an application for membership. This application will include a Resume and 2 professional references. Interviews will be held if there is uncertainty after the application process. 'Sunset Clause' practitioners will be recognised at the 'Certified Practitioner' level.

### Individual Recognition - complex educational situation

Strict membership requirements like those above cannot take into account the situations of all practitioners. Some practitioners have a complex educational situation that does not meet the direct requirements of the Association, but could be seen as equivalent to qualifications mentioned, for example combinations of University and TAFE training. For these practitioners, from October of 2009, an Individual Recognition Process will be available so that they might apply for inclusion. Individuals without formal qualifications will not be eligible. Further details of this process will be available closer to that time. If you think that you may like to pursue Individual Recognition when it becomes available, please contact WAAYW at [info@waayw.org](mailto:info@waayw.org) to let us know about your situation so that we may better design the process.

### Recognition of Prior Learning – For experienced youth workers

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) processes are available through most major educational institutions including TAFE and University. These processes take into account the knowledge and skills that you have developed as part of your ongoing employment in the field. By applying for RPL you may be able to gain a qualification without the necessity of taking classes, or you may only need to complete a part of the usual requirements.

## Information and Feedback

The Western Australian Association of Youth Workers have selected these Membership Requirements taking into consideration the situation of many people currently practicing Youth Work. The Requirements seek to find a balance between being inclusive of the diversity of practitioners whilst still remaining committed a field that is aspirational in its pursuit of further education. For further information about WAAYW and the membership requirements, please visit our website [www.waayw.org](http://www.waayw.org). WAAYW also acknowledges that the decisions made about requirements are merely a starting point and welcomes feedback, either positive or negative, from the field. Future changes to Membership Requirements will be placed in the hands of members. Any feedback can be emailed to [info@waayw.org](mailto:info@waayw.org)