

The Australian College of Educators CHARTER

Preamble

The Australian College of Educators is the longest serving professional body for educators in Australia. Established in 1959, the College was founded as a professional body that would include teachers from all levels and every type of education. Over the course of its history, the College has maintained its focus on the advancement of the education profession through its commitment to professional learning and growth, the production and distribution of high-quality information and publications and active engagement in the broader education debate.

Aims and Objectives

The Australian College of Educators (the College) advances the education profession nationally across all sectors and levels for the individual and collective success of Australia's educators.

In advancing the profession, the College aims to:

- promote professional standards of a high order;
- recognise excellence in professional practice;
- foster the professional learning of educators; and
- enhance the status of the profession.

In pursuing these aims, the College strives to:

- exercise ethical leadership of the profession
- enhance the professionalism of educators
- foster collegiality, cooperation and networking
- recognise and value highly accomplished professional practice
- acknowledge and promote outstanding contributions to education
- create connectivity and unity among all sectors and levels of the profession
- promote and facilitate continuous professional learning and improvement

Activities of the College

The College has four main areas of activity:

1. Providing leadership to the education profession through
 - 1.1. Representation
 - 1.2. Publications
 - 1.3. Events
2. Provision of services and benefits including
 - 2.1. publications
 - 2.2. professional learning
 - 2.3. discounts and other member benefits
3. Recognition of professional status through
 - 3.1. the granting of Member and Fellow status
 - 3.2. the awarding of special medals and acknowledgements, including the ACE College Medal
4. Events and networking activities, including
 - 4.1. an annual national event
 - 4.2. state-based events and activities

Membership

The College offers annual membership subscriptions that confer a range of benefits and services. Through this annual subscription, education professionals are considered members of the College and afforded member status based on professional achievements and on-going professional learning and development.

Current membership status categories include:

- Associate Members – students and beginning professionals who aim to achieve Member status
- Members – professionals who have demonstrated a high standard of professional practice
- Fellows – professionals who have demonstrated an exceptional standard of professional practice
- Life Members – professionals recognised by the College as having made an exceptional contribution to the profession and the College over a period of years.

Membership status is dependent on the individual maintaining their financial subscription to the College.

Members participate actively in shaping and driving the College through a variety of mechanisms and ensuring the continued high status and value of membership, but do not hold the legal status of owners of the College.

Rights and Responsibilities

An annual membership subscription to the College confers certain rights and responsibilities including:

- Members of the College with the Status of Member may use the post-nominal MACE
- Members of the College with the Status of Fellow may use the post-nominal FACE
- Members are provided with a range of member benefits, details of which are included with annual subscription.

Members of the College are expected to demonstrate the values and ethics expected of a recognised member of the College.

Members of the College are required to agree and adhere to the ACE Code of Conduct.

Members must provide (if requested) relevant evidence relating to qualifications and certifications in order to have membership conferred.

Eligibility

To be eligible for membership a person must have a graduate qualification in education or training.

Individuals currently studying an education qualification (pre-service) at a recognised institution are eligible to apply for associate membership of the College.

Consideration will be given to individuals with equivalent qualifications or experience in education.

The adequacy and acceptability of the qualifications of any applicant for a membership subscription shall be on the recommendation of the Director to the ACE Advisory Board whose decision on the issue shall be absolute and final.

Revocation of Membership

An individual may have their membership rescinded if:

- Written notification is given to the College Director specifying the member's desire to cease their subscription. No refund will be given for current year subscriptions.
- Non-payment of subscription
 - If the subscription is in arrears by three months, the membership will be cancelled, and the member will have to reapply for membership
 - If a monthly membership subscription is in arrears by two months the membership will be cancelled, and the member will have to reapply for membership and pay the annual subscription fee up front
- Members who through their actions do not demonstrate the values of the College as outlined in the ACE Code of Conduct or bring the College into disrepute will be removed from the membership list and have their status revoked.
- Membership revocation process:
 - The Director, Australian College of Educators will investigate the actions that have been identified as not demonstrating the values of the College and provide a report to the ACE National Board for consideration
 - The Member will be afforded the opportunity to respond to the issues raised and provide a written response to the National Board for consideration
 - The ACE National Board will review the information provided and make recommendation to the Director on the member's status
 - The Director, Australian College of Educators will provide the member with a written determination on their membership to the College

ACE National Board

The ACE National Board is an advisory board responsible for providing direction and oversight of the College and its activities and promoting and advocating for the College. The Board is responsible for developing the College's Strategic Plan and provides advice and direction on College matters.

The National Board shall consist of no fewer than five (5) members and not more than nine (9) members, made up as follows:

- (i) two (2) officers being the Chair (referred to as the President of the College) and the Deputy Chair;
- (ii) three (3) members appointed by the National Board from the ACE membership via an application process; and
- (iii) up to four (4) Co-opted members at least one of whom must have financial expertise.

Members of the National Board do not have legal responsibility for the governance of the College, which was transferred to the Australian Council for Educational Research in July 2019.

ACE National Board Sub-Committees

The ACE National Board may establish Board Sub-Committees to deal with specific College activities. The structure, membership and terms of reference of these sub-committees will be determined by the ACE National Board.

ACE National Office

The ACE National Office, led by the Director, Australian College of Educators, manages all aspects of College operations and is responsible for the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan and the College's financial sustainability.

ACE Branches

Branches of the College may be established at State and regional level with the specific purpose of:

- Promoting College Membership at a local level
- Coordinating regional events to encourage Collegiality and professional learning opportunities

Establishment

Financial ACE Members within a State or Region may, with the approval of the ACE Board establish a Branch.

Members of each ACE Branch shall operate in accordance with the ACE Branches Terms of Reference.

Members of ACE Branches must adhere to the policies and procedures of the Australian College of Educators.

ACE Branches will be reviewed annually by the ACE National Board to determine their continuation. A branch may be dissolved by the ACE National Board.

ACE Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

College members may make application to the ACE National Board to establish an ACE Special Interest Group (SIG).

ACE SIGs shall operate in accordance with the ACE Special Interest Groups Terms of Reference.

Special Interest Groups will be reviewed annually by the ACE National Board to determine their continuation. A special interest group may be dissolved by the ACE National Board.

Definitions

None required

Related Policies and Procedures

Australian College of Educators Branches Terms of Reference

Review Criteria

Policy will be reviewed every two years

Responsible Officer

Director – Australian College of Educators

Contact

ACE National Office

Version control information

Approval Date	Version No.	Approved by	Amendment summary	Start date	Review date
27 November 2019	1.0/2019	ACE Board		December 2019	2022