

## Purpose

The purpose of this Membership Policy is to describe:

- How the Board will exercise the authority provided under the constitution in respect of membership of Wentworth Community Housing (Wentworth) and in particular Clauses 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14.
- The benefits and principles of membership of Wentworth.
- The criteria and processes for assessing membership applications

## Policy

Wentworth's constitution defines the organisation's, purpose and governance arrangements.

### Benefits and Principles of Membership

Members of Wentworth are entitled to nominate potential individuals for election as directors (subject to Board approval of the nomination), attend, speak at and vote at Annual General Meetings, and any other Meetings of members convened by the Board, including consideration of the annual financial report, Directors' report and the Auditor's report; election of Directors; appointment of the Auditor; and constitution changes.

The Board will seek other opportunities to actively engage members in the governance of the Company, through activities which may include (for example):

- Attendance at Members' Forum(s) or issue based discussion forums
- Regular Members' Newsletters
- Discounted rates for fundraising events

### Responsibilities of Members

Members are expected to:

- Act at all times in the best interests of Wentworth
- In dealings with and for Wentworth, consider and balance the needs and interests of all Wentworth clients and client groups
- contribute an amount not exceeding \$20.00 to the property of the company if it is wound up while they are members

### Applications for Membership

Wentworth's Board of Directors is responsible for managing the organisation's affairs and carrying out the purposes of the organisation, including the appointment of members. It is important that members are committed to the organisation its wellbeing and ongoing success, as they play an important part in the governance of Wentworth.

Given these responsibilities, the Board encourages, and will seek applications for membership from individuals who bring one or more of the following:

- Knowledge of one or more of Wentworth's key focus areas ( homelessness, social housing, affordable housing, community building, partnerships)
- Professional capabilities which could contribute to the achievement of Wentworth's vision and strategy
- Being a resident of, or have a commitment to, Western Sydney and the geographic area in which Wentworth currently or seeks to operate
- Strong professional or personal network which could be leveraged to advance Wentworth's interests
- Philanthropic interests in homelessness or housing sector

The Board will endeavour to achieve a membership base that has broad representation whilst balancing the attributes listed above.

The Membership Application Process is detailed in Wentworth's Constitution (Section 12.1 – Membership Applications)

## Approvals

Approved by: Board of Directors

Approval date: August 2017

Effective date: August 2017

Next review date: August 2019