

# **EASTERN COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS INCORPORATED**

## **POLICY – MEMBERSHIP of 3ECB**

### **RATIONALE**

Eastern Community Broadcasters Incorporated, broadcasting as Radio Eastern FM 98.1 in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne, encourages applications for membership from all people living or working in our broadcast area and beyond, or who visit regularly, and who enjoy community radio and wish to support the station.

We encourage Membership applications from people of all ages, beliefs, and language groups, and from all community groups. We encourage membership application from Indigenous Australians.

### **TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP**

Our Membership categories are defined in our “Rules of the Association, Eastern Community Broadcasters Incorporated”, Section 4 “Membership, entry fees and subscription”, Subrules (7) and (8). These subrules describe the membership categories of ‘Individual’, ‘Family’, ‘Persons under 18 years of age’, ‘Retired Persons’, ‘Bona Fide Concessional’, and ‘Community Groups’.

The policies relating to the various membership categories are as follows:

- **Individual**

For adults (persons aged 18 years or over) who do not qualify for a concession and who are not full time students. Each member is entitled to a vote at Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings. Each member receives a newsletter, may be trained as a presenter or in other volunteering roles, and may accept nomination to the Committee of Management.

- **Family**

Entitles the whole family to membership. One member of the family may be nominated to exercise a vote at Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings. Each nominee may accept nomination to the Committee of Management. Any of the listed members may be trained as presenters or in other volunteering roles. The family receives a newsletter.

- **Persons under 18 years of age**

This category applies to persons under the age of 18 years at the time of payment of membership fees. Members in this category become Individual Members at the first instant that membership fees become due after their eighteenth birthday. Each member receives a newsletter. Persons under 18 years of age may be trained as a presenter and in other volunteering roles, may vote at Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings, and may accept nomination to the Committee of Management.

Members who are persons under 18 years of age are encouraged to perform community service or community visits at the station under the supervision of station volunteers.

In the case of persons under 18 years of age who may be representing other community organisations, community service or community visits may be conducted at the station under the supervision of station volunteers and under the co-supervision of an adult member from that community organisation.

- Retired Persons

For adults who have retired from the workforce. Each member is entitled to a vote at Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings. Each member receives a newsletter, may be trained as a presenter or in other volunteering roles, and may accept nomination to the Committee of Management.

- Bona fide concessional

For adults as determined by the Membership Manager at the time of submission of an application that includes supporting documentation, and for full-time students under 25 with a student identification card, whether or not they are living with their families. Each member is entitled to a vote at Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings, may accept nomination to the Committee of Management, receives a newsletter, and may be trained as a presenter or in other volunteering roles.

- Community Groups

For community groups which are not-for-profit organisations. Entitles the group to membership, with one member of the group nominated to exercise a vote at Special General Meetings and Annual General Meetings. Groups may nominate their own nominee for membership of the Committee of Management. The group receives a newsletter.

A not-for-profit organisation that is a Group Member may have one or more persons trained to present a programme on behalf of the organisation. Those trained persons need not include the person nominated to vote.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

1. It is expected that all members will agree to abide by the Rules of the Association, and the Policies and Procedures of Eastern Community Broadcasters Incorporated, and accept the provisions of the Policy – Disputes and Conflicts Resolution.
2. It is expected that all members will pay their subscription promptly when they are notified that the subscription is due.
3. It is expected that all members will promote the interests of Eastern Community Broadcasters Incorporated in the broadcast area.
4. It is expected that Members who are also volunteers will carry out their duties in a competent and professional manner.

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Leave of absence for any reason, from presenting, administrative or Committee of Management duties, will be granted upon application.

## **RESIGNATION**

A member may resign for any reason at any time, by giving one month's notice in writing to the Secretary. In the case of a Presenter, withdrawal from a program for any reason should be subject to at least a fortnight's notice to the Programming Sub-Committee.

## **LIMITATIONS ON MEMBERSHIP**

Applications for membership are welcomed. They are submitted to the Board for approval.

Applications for membership will only be rejected, suspended or terminated in compliance with Section 7 of the "Rules of the Association", 'Rejection of Application, Discipline, Suspension and Expulsion of Members'. Rejection of an application, discipline, suspension and expulsion of

Members are also subject to Section 8, “Disputes and mediation”, by which a Member may request a review of a decision about their membership.

## **RECORDS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Upon entry and exit to Membership of Eastern Community Broadcasters Incorporated, necessary entries will be made in the Register of members, maintained by the Committee of Management. A Member may view the Membership Register at an agreed time and place, and may make copies of entries relevant to them and as allowed under Victorian privacy legislation in effect at the time.

## **FEES**

Membership fees for the various categories of Membership shall be set from time to time by the Committee of Management, and will be communicated to Members and the community via the most current version of the membership application form as provided upon request and on the station’s web site.

## **RIGHTS OF MEMBERS - PARTICIPATION**

Eastern Community Broadcasters Incorporated affirms the right of members to participate in discussions of policy and programming, and to seek volunteering roles. It also notes the responsibility of members to accept and implement station policies.

## **RIGHTS OF MEMBERS - COMPLAINTS**

A Member(s) who believe that their rights as defined by this policy have been infringed, have recourse by complaint to the Committee of Management. For guidance about making a complaint, access to the Policy – Disputes and Conflict Resolution, and the Procedure – Complaints, may be obtained via the web site or upon request.

This Policy is supported by the most recent versions of the following Policies and Procedures:

<b>Policy or Procedure Name</b>
Rules of the Association, Eastern Community Broadcasters Incorporated
Policy – Volunteering
Eastern Community Broadcasters Inc. (Radio Eastern) Workplace discrimination and harassment policy
Procedure – Membership
Policy – Training
Community Radio Broadcasting Codes of Practice, Codes 1, 2 and 7
Procedure – Complaints
Policy – Disputes and Conflict Resolution