



Adoptee Rights Australia Inc.  
PO Box 976, Toronto NSW 2283  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

**Which level of Membership are you applying for?**

- Full Member – adopted persons only
- Associate Member – mother, father, sibling, kin, post-adoption professional, media, search volunteer, support person.

First Name ..... Last Name ..... Date of Birth .....  
\* This must be your legal name. If you use another name, please list your preferred name here as well:

First Name ..... Last Name .....

Postal Address .....  
..... State ..... Postcode .....

Email Address ..... Facebook Email .....

Home Phone ..... Mobile Phone .....

Name of the Electorate you live in – Federal ..... State .....

Are you an Adopted person (this includes Discharged Adoptees)? Please circle: Yes / No

If Yes, in which Australian State did the adoption take place? .....

If No, please state your connection to adoption? .....

I agree to receive Adoptee Rights Australia Inc. correspondence via email Please circle: Yes / No

**Declaration:**

- I declare that the information I have provided is true and correct.
- I agree with Adoptee Rights Australia Inc Objectives. SEE ATTACHMENT 1
- I have read and understand the membership rules as it appears in the Constitution. SEE ATTACHMENT 2

Signature: ..... Date .....

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

Membership fees are payable for Full Membership (Adopted Person only). The fee is an annual membership fee of between **\$10** and **\$50** dependent on your personal circumstances and can be paid to the bank account details listed below.

**NOTE:** If you cannot afford to pay a membership fee or wish to pay a reduced fee, please email the Committee to make application for a waiver of the fees: [admin@adopteerightsaustralia.org.au](mailto:admin@adopteerightsaustralia.org.au)

**DONATIONS:**

Adoptee Rights Australia Inc. works towards getting adoptees voices heard so we can advocate for reform in adoption legislation, policy and services in all Governments jurisdictions in Australia so that the human rights and wellbeing of adopted persons are restored, protected and promoted, and to raise public awareness of, and support for, reform of adoption legislation, policy, and services across Australia.

**Donations to assist are always needed and can be made to the following bank account.**

Please email us with the details of your donations to [admin@adopteerightsaustralia.org.au](mailto:admin@adopteerightsaustralia.org.au)

Account name: Adoptee Rights Australia Incorporated  
BSB #: 035 048  
Account #: 387128  
Reference: Your name

**NOTE:**

Our membership list & member details are held in strict confidence & will not be shared.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### OBJECTIVES

Adoptee Rights Australia is established with the following objectives:

- 1) Advocate for reform of adoption legislation, policy and services so that the human rights and wellbeing of adopted persons is restored, protected and promoted.
- 2) Advocate for welfare checks and continued state accountability, in line with the UNCRC, for children in all forms of out-of-home care including adoption.
- 3) Advocate for and facilitate education activities to raise public awareness and awareness in the government/child protection and relevant service sectors of the lifelong impact of adoption, and raise support for reform of adoption legislation, policy, and services.
- 4) Advocate for free access by adopted persons to all legal, social, health and genetic information so that their connection to identity, family, heritage and culture can be restored, protected and promoted.
- 5) Participate in government legislative reviews, inquiries, investigations, studies or research to ensure the human rights and lived experience of adopted persons are included in findings and recommendations.
- 6) Advocate for general legislation, policy and services that respect families and restore, protect and promote the right of children to remain in their family, heritage and culture of birth.
- 7) Advocate to all governments, their relevant agencies and contractors to:
  - a) protect the safety and wellbeing of adopted children through ongoing regular welfare checks
  - b) reform legislation, policy and services to restore, protect and promote the right of adopted persons to their own family, heritage and culture
  - c) promote access to genetic medical history
- 8) Advocate that the evidence of life-stage and life-span trauma of neonatal-maternal separation is included in the design of legislation, policy and services. Advocate for research to build an evidence base (including retrospective data linkage) on the impact of adoption across the lifespan for adopted persons.
- 9) Develop partnerships with other entities who share the objectives of: restoring, protecting and promoting the human rights and wellbeing of adopted persons, and; the reform of legislation, policies and services.
- 10) In collaboration with intercountry adoptee associations, lobby other countries regarding the negative impact of adoption on adopted people including the trauma of being permanently removed from their country of origin and their loss of cultural identity.
- 11) Advocate on behalf of children at risk of becoming adopted (including the un-born) and their mothers and families.
- 12) Develop and implement appropriate financial and fund-raising initiatives to enable the objectives of the Association to be achieved.

## ATTACHMENT 2

**Membership.** *Note: (1) (a) is to clarify that you are not a robot.*

- 1) A person is eligible to be a full member of Adoptee Rights Australia if:
  - a) the person is a natural person, and
  - b) the person is an adopted person over the age of 18 at the time of applying for membership, and
  - c) the person supports the objects of Adoptee Rights Australia and agrees to be bound by its rules
  - d) the person has applied and been approved for membership in accordance with Section 3 – Application for membership.
- 2) A person is eligible to be an associate member of Adoptee Rights Australia if:
  - a) the person is a natural person, and
  - b) the person is over the age of 18 at the time of applying for membership, and
  - c) the person supports the objects of the association and agrees to be bound by its rules, and
  - d) the person has applied and been approved for associate membership in accordance with Section 3 – Application for membership.
- 3) Associates shall have all the rights and obligations of members, including attending any General Meeting of Adoptee Rights Australia, but may not vote at any meeting or in any election and may not be nominated or nominate for election to the Committee.
- 4) A person is taken to be a full member of Adoptee Rights Australia if the person was an elected committee member of the unincorporated body immediately before the registration of Adoptee Rights Australia, and has satisfied the requirements at Section 2(1) (a), (b) and (c).
- 5) A person is taken to be an associate member of Adoptee Rights Australia if the person was a member of the unincorporated body's Facebook group immediately before the registration of Adoptee Rights Australia.

### 3 Application for membership

- 1) An application by a person for membership of Adoptee Rights Australia:
  - a) must be made in writing (including by email or other electronic means, if the committee so determines) in the form determined by the committee, and
  - b) must be lodged (including by electronic means, if the committee so determines) with the secretary of Adoptee Rights Australia.
- 2) As soon as practicable after receiving an application for membership, the secretary must refer the application to the committee, which is to determine whether to approve or to reject the application. The committee may refuse membership or associate status to any applicant at its discretion.
- 3) As soon as practicable after the committee makes that determination, the secretary must:
  - a) Notify the applicant in writing (including by email or other electronic means, if the committee so determines) that the committee approved or rejected the application (whichever is applicable), and
  - b) if the committee approved the application, request the applicant to pay (within the period of 28 days after receipt by the applicant of the notification) the sum payable under this constitution by a member as entrance fee and annual subscription.
- 4) The secretary must, on payment by the applicant of the amounts referred to in sub clause (3) (b) within the period referred to in that provision, enter or cause to be entered the individual applicant's name in the register of members and, on the name being so entered, the applicant becomes a member of Adoptee Rights Australia.

#### 4 Cessation of membership

A person ceases to be a full member of Adoptee Rights Australia if the person:

- a) is not an adopted person, or
- b) dies, or
- c) resigns membership, or
- d) is expelled from the association, or
- e) fails to pay the annual membership fee under clause 8 (2) within 3 months after the fee is due.

An associate member ceases to be a member of Adoptee Rights Australia if the associate member

- a) resigns membership, or
- b) is expelled from the association

#### 5 Membership entitlements not transferable

A right, privilege or obligation which a person has by reason of being a member of Adoptee Rights Australia:

- a) is not capable of being transferred or transmitted to another person, and
- b) terminates on cessation of the person's membership.

#### 6 Resignation of membership

- (1) A member of Adoptee Rights Australia may resign from membership of Adoptee Rights Australia by first giving to the secretary written notice of at least 1 month (or any other period that the committee may determine) of the member's intention to resign and, on the expiration of the period of notice, the member ceases to be a member.
- (2) If a member of Adoptee Rights Australia ceases to be a member under sub clause (1) and in every other case where a member ceases to hold membership, the secretary must make an appropriate entry in the register of members recording the date on which the member ceased to be a member.

#### 7 Register of members

- (1) The secretary must establish and maintain a register of members of the association (whether in written or electronic form) specifying the name and postal, residential or email address of each person that is a member of the association together with the date on which the person became a member.
- (2) The register of members must be kept in New South Wales:
  - (a) at the main premises of Adoptee Rights Australia, or
  - (b) if Adoptee Rights Australia has no premises, at Adoptee Rights Australia's official address.
- (3) The register of members must be open for inspection, free of charge, by any member of Adoptee Rights Australia at any reasonable hour.
- (4) A member of Adoptee Rights Australia may obtain a copy of any part of the register on payment of a fee of not more than \$1 for each page copied.
- (5) If a member requests that any information contained on the register about the member (other than the member's name) not be available for inspection, that information must not be made available for inspection.
- (6) A member must not use information about a person obtained from the register to contact or send material to the person, other than for:
  - (a) the purposes of sending the person a newsletter, a notice in respect of a meeting or other event relating to Adoptee Rights Australia or other material relating to Adoptee Rights Australia, or
  - (b) any other purpose necessary to comply with a requirement of the Act or the Regulation.
- (7) If the register of members is kept in electronic form:
  - (a) it must be convertible into hard copy, and
  - (b) the requirements in sub clauses (2) and (3) apply as if a reference to the register of members is a reference to a current hard copy of the register of members.

#### 8 Fees and subscriptions

- (1) A **member** (other than an **associate member**) of Adoptee Rights Australia must, on admission to membership, pay to Adoptee Rights Australia a fee of between \$10 and \$50 dependent on their personal circumstances or, if some other amount or a waiver is determined by the committee, that other amount.
- (2) In addition to any amount payable by the **member** (other than an **associate member**) under sub clause (1), a member of Adoptee Rights Australia must pay to Adoptee Rights Australia an annual membership fee of between \$10 and \$50 dependent on their personal circumstances or, if some other amount or a waiver is determined by the committee, that other amount:
  - (a) except as provided by paragraph (b), before the first day of the financial year of Adoptee Rights Australia in each calendar year, or
  - (b) if the member becomes a member on or after the first day of the financial year of the association in any calendar year—on becoming a member and before the first day of the financial year of Adoptee Rights Australia in each succeeding calendar year.

#### 9 Members' liabilities

The liability of a member of Adoptee Rights Australia to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of Adoptee Rights Australia is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership of Adoptee Rights Australia as required by clause 8.

#### 10 Resolution of disputes

- (1) A dispute between a member and another member (in their capacity as members) of Adoptee Rights Australia, or a dispute between a member or members and the association, are to be referred to a Community Justice Centre for mediation under the *Community Justice Centres Act 1983*.
- (2) If a dispute is not resolved by mediation within 3 months of the referral to a Community Justice Centre, the dispute is to be referred to arbitration.
- (3) The *Commercial Arbitration Act 2010* applies to a dispute referred to arbitration.

## **11 Disciplining of members**

- (1) A complaint may be made to the committee by any person that a member of Adoptee Rights Australia:
  - (a) has refused or neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of this constitution, or
  - (b) has willfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the association.
- (2) The committee may refuse to deal with a complaint if it considers the complaint to be trivial or vexatious in nature.
- (3) If the committee decides to deal with the complaint, the committee:
  - (a) must cause notice of the complaint to be served on the member concerned, and
  - (b) must give the member at least 14 days from the time the notice is served within which to make submissions to the committee in connection with the complaint, and
  - (c) must take into consideration any submissions made by the member in connection with the complaint.
- (4) The committee may, by resolution, expel the member from Adoptee Rights Australia or suspend the member from membership of Adoptee Rights Australia if, after considering the complaint and any submissions made in connection with the complaint, it is satisfied that the facts alleged in the complaint have been proved and the expulsion or suspension is warranted in the circumstances.
- (5) If the committee expels or suspends a member, the secretary must, within 7 days after the action is taken, cause written notice to be given to the member of the action taken, of the reasons given by the committee for having taken that action and of the member's right of appeal under clause 12.
- (6) The expulsion or suspension does not take effect:
  - (a) until the expiration of the period within which the member is entitled to appeal against the resolution concerned, or
  - (b) if within that period the member exercises the right of appeal, unless and until Adoptee Rights Australia confirms the resolution under clause 12, whichever is the later.

## **12 Right of appeal of disciplined member**

- (1) A member may appeal to Adoptee Rights Australia in a general meeting against a resolution of the committee under clause 11, within 7 days after notice of the resolution is served on the member, by lodging with the secretary a notice to that effect.
- (2) The notice may, but need not, be accompanied by a statement of the grounds on which the member intends to rely for the purposes of the appeal.
- (3) On receipt of a notice from a member under sub clause (1), the secretary must notify the committee, which is to convene a general meeting of Adoptee Rights Australia to be held within 28 days after the date on which the secretary received the notice.
- (4) At a general meeting of Adoptee Rights Australia convened under sub clause (3):
  - (a) no business other than the question of the appeal is to be transacted, and
  - (b) the committee and the member must be given the opportunity to state their respective cases orally or in writing, or both, and
  - (c) the members present are to vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- (5) The appeal is to be determined by a simple majority of votes cast by members of Adoptee Rights Australia.