THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) IN AUSTRALIA
FACEBOOK POLICY

Facebook Policy: Quakers Australia Facebook page

1. **Aims and objectives**
   1.1. Promote the work of Australia Yearly Meeting (AYM), its members and committees
   1.2. Share information and news about the work of AYM
   1.3. Serve as a means of outreach
   1.4. Engage with members of the public
   1.5. This group is not intended to be the sole way to distribute information among Friends in Australia. Postings by administrators will usually also be shared in other ways in order to reach as many Friends in possible. This may include: https://www.quakersaustralia.info, the AYM Secretary's newsletter, email to Regional Meeting Clerks and relevant committees, and the Quakers Australia Facebook Open Page.

2. **Authorisation and challenges of Facebook**
   2.1. Postings as Quakers Australia page will only be made by administrators of the page
   2.2. The page will have multiple administrators, including the AYM Secretary
   2.3. Postings as Quakers Australia should represent the discernment of AYM
   2.4. Administration of the page is under the care of the AYM Secretary, who may ask members/attenders within *Australia Yearly Meeting* to serve an administrator of the page to support the Secretary's work.
   2.5. Allegations of misrepresentation of AYM or Quaker material/beliefs or other misappropriation by the administrator or editors will be tested by a group of Friends comprising the IT Committee, the AYM Clerk and selected elders from a Meeting other than the administrator's/editor's home Meeting(s) through Quaker processes and discernment. If found to be true, this group will take appropriate actions.
   2.6. Comments and messages
       2.6.1. Followers of the page can comment on any posts
       2.6.2. Administrators will respond to comments, messages and questions on the page directly in a timely manner
       2.6.3. Questionable or offensive content/comments will be captured in a screen shot, then deleted
       2.6.4. Repeated offenders of posting standards may be blocked from the page, after consultation between at least two administrators of the page.
       2.6.5. Before being blocked, the person who posted concerning comments will, where possible, be notified and asked to refrain from objectionable behaviour

3. **Content**
   3.1. Information will be posted:
       3.1.1. To promote events, calls to action, public statements and press releases that are intended for members of AYM and the broader public
       3.1.2. For outreach purposes and to inform people about the work of AYM
   3.2. Information will be shared/reposted from the following primary sources:
       3.2.1. QPLC press releases

3.2.2. AYM public statements
3.2.3. The Australian Friend
3.2.4. AYM Secretary's newsletter
3.2.5. AYM Committees
3.2.6. Associated bodies
3.2.7. AYM website
3.3. Timing
3.3.1. News and events will be posted in a timely manner
3.3.2. Postings may be more frequent at times of high activity.
3.4. Images
3.4.1. Images will be posted with permission of the creator and subject, or non-copyrighted images will be used
3.4.2. Image credits will be included in the post
3.4.3. Image descriptions will be included in the post
3.4.4. Postings will strive to use varied representation of people of ages, races and experiences
3.5. Minors
3.5.1. Will only be included in images with the permission of the minor and their guardian/s
3.5.2. Will only be identified by first name and only with the permission of the minor and their guardian/s
3.6. Identification of Friends
3.6.1. May include tagging those on Facebook, use of full name and Regional Meeting
3.7. Non-exclusive source of information
3.7.1. Content shared on this page may also be shared with Friends in other ways (e.g. Regional Meeting Clerks, AYM Secretary's newsletter, AYM website) for Friends who do not use Facebook
3.7.2. Information shared on this page may also be shared in the QA (Quakers Australia) group

4. Boosting posts
4.1. Facebook posts may be boosted to enhance the reach of the post. (Boosting posts means paying a small amount of money to promote the post so it is seen by a wider audience. This is done very occasionally, for example to promote the Backhouse Lecture, or some other prominent statement or event, and would involve a minimal amount).
4.2. Boosting will be done using free credit offered (by Facebook) or using funds from the appropriate fund, as determined the AYM Secretary.

5. Reports
5.1. The content of all posts will be recorded and included with the annual report. (The Facebook page is linked to our website, which means that posts made to the Quakers Australia Facebook page can be seen at the bottom of https://www.quakersaustralia.info).
5.2. A record of all posts made, or posts made during a specific time period is available to Friends at any time upon request.

Facebook Policy: Closed QA group
1. Aims and objectives
1.1. The QA Group QA is a closed Facebook group for those who are members or attenders at Quaker meetings within Australia to share news of and with Friends to:
1.1.1 provide in-reach within Friends in Australia
1.1.2 promote respectful discussion, fellowship and spiritual deepening among Friends

  1.1.3 promote and share information and news about the work of Australia Yearly Meeting (AYM), its members and committees

  1.1.5 promote like-minded organisations, events and opportunities with and for Friends in Australia

  1.1.6 Create a safe online space for Friends

  1.1.7 This group is not part of the decision-making process of AYM or its associated bodies. Questions, concerns or comments with regard to material posted on the page should be addressed to the appropriate AYM bodies.

2. Authorisation and challenges

 2.1. A request to join the QA Group must be sent to the administrator of the Group, who can either accept or not accept their request to join

 2.2. Postings are made by members of the closed QA group

 2.3. Allegations of misrepresentation of AYM or Quaker material/beliefs or other misappropriation by an administrator will be tested by a group of Friends comprising the IT Committee, the AYM Clerk and selected elders from a Meeting other than the administrator's home Meeting through Quaker processes and discernment. If found to be true, this group will take appropriate actions.

 2.4. Comments and messages

  2.5.1 Members can post and make comments on any post

  2.5.2 Administrators will respond to comments, messages and questions to the group directly in a timely manner

  2.5.3 Questionable or offensive content/comments may be deleted by the group administrator

  2.5.4 Offenders of posting standards may be blocked from the group, after consultation between at least two administrators of the group. Before being blocked, the person who posted concerning comments may be notified and asked to refrain from objectionable behaviour

3. Behaviour of Group Members

 3.1 Members need to agree to QA Group Guidelines

 3.2 Members need to be in-line with the AYM Safe Quaker Community Policy

 3.3 Members should not engage in bullying, disruptive or offensive behaviour

 3.4 Using the QA Group for purposes other than those specified is not acceptable

Approved March 2021, Minute SC3.21.4