

**Chapter 3 draft revision**

All cross references, email addresses, websites to be checked prior to publication

**Chapter 3, Membership of the Society**

Revised text	Current Handbook
<p><b>3.1.0 Introduction</b></p> <p>This chapter deals with the Society’s membership practices and procedures as they affect Enquirers (3.2.0), Attenders (3.3.0), Members of the Society, children, Junior Young Friends and Young Friends. Each of these is automatically a member (note the small ‘m’ in member) of the respective Worship Meeting and Regional Meeting. This chapter focuses on those formally accepted as Members (capital M) of the Society. (INSERT RELEVANT CROSS REFERENCES)</p>	<p><b>3.1.0 Introduction</b></p> <p>This chapter deals with the Society’s membership practices and procedures as they affect Enquirers (3.2.0), Attenders (3.3.0), Members of the Society, child members (3.8.0) and Young Friends (3.9.0) Each of these is automatically a member (note the small m in member) of the respective Worship Meeting and Regional Meeting. This chapter focuses on those formally accepted as Members (capital M) of the Society.</p>
<p><b>3.2 Enquirers</b></p> <p>Anyone is welcome to come respectfully to a Meeting for Worship, to share the prayerful silence, and to respond inwardly to the sense of worship and the spoken ministry. People new to Quaker ways are usually offered a pamphlet explaining what to expect, and after the Meeting for Worship, they are welcome to share time with Friends, seek further reading and note coming activities. Many of the activities of Quaker meetings (as well as Meeting for Worship) are open to Enquirers to attend. Sometimes such an activity can provide an alternate pathway for an Enquirer to find out about Quakers.</p>	<p><b>3.2.0 Enquirers</b></p> <p>Anyone is welcome to come respectfully to a Meeting for Worship, to share the prayerful silence, and to respond inwardly to the sense of worship and the spoken ministry. People new to Quaker ways, Enquirers, are usually offered a pamphlet explaining what to expect in a Meeting for Worship before entering the room. After the Meeting for Worship, Enquirers are welcome to share the social time with Friends, seek further reading and note coming activities. An Elder may be on duty, ready to discuss the Meeting for Worship just concluded.</p>
<p><b>3.3 Attenders</b></p> <p>People who attend Meeting for Worship regularly may be invited by their local Ministry and Care to be on the mailing list for newsletters and / or be shown as Attenders in our membership database, accessible at <a href="https://www.quakersaustralia.info/organisation">https://www.quakersaustralia.info/organisation</a></p> <p>The Meeting may encourage Attenders to apply for membership, when the Attender feels led to do so. Meetings may conduct activities which are intended to help Attenders to understand the processes by which one can progress to Membership.</p>	<p><b>3.3.0 Attenders</b></p> <p>Enquirers who attend Meeting for Worship regularly are invited to be on the mailing list for newsletters and be shown as Attenders in the next edition of <i>Australian Quaker Meetings, Office-holders, Members, Attenders and Children</i> (5.5.4).</p> <p>After obtaining the Clerk’s permission, Attenders can be present at any Business Meeting and take part in its deliberations. Also they may participate in the Yearly Meeting (Chapter 6), provided they have been endorsed by their home Regional Meeting. Attenders can be very active within the Society, e.g. hold some offices or be appointed to appropriate LM or RM</p>

**Comment [A1]:** DiA: We recommend that references to *Australian Quaker Meetings, Office-holders, Members, Attenders and Children* be changed, as it is no longer printed. It is called ‘membership database’ in our draft revision, and this includes the online list of *Meetings, members, attenders, and children*, which can be printed on demand.

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<p>Attendees may be very active within the Society, e.g. hold some offices or be appointed to appropriate Local Meeting or Regional Meeting committees. They may also receive a copy of the annual request from the Regional Meeting or Local Meeting Treasurer seeking financial contributions to support the work of the Society.</p> <p>After obtaining the Clerk’s permission, Attendees may be present at any Business Meeting and take part in its deliberations, although some meetings may exclude them from membership or some other matters.</p> <p>Attendees wishing to participate in Yearly Meeting need to have their participation endorsed by Standing Committee through their Regional Meeting.</p> <p>If an Attender moves into the area of another Meeting, it is helpful for the original Meeting to arrange contact with the appropriate Worship Meeting or LM or RM.</p>	<p>committees. They also receive a copy of the annual request from the RM Treasurer seeking contributions to support the work of the Society.</p>
<b>3.4 Members</b>	<b>3.4.0 Meaning of Membership</b>
<p>Membership of the Society is a recognised outward sign of an inner and spiritual commitment to the way of worship, practice and community within the Society. The experience of many Friends is that spiritual growth is enhanced by the formal acceptance of commitment to the spiritual community and acceptance of the responsibilities involved.</p>	<p>Membership of the Society is a recognised outward sign of an inner and spiritual commitment to the way of worship and community within the Society. In the early days of the Quaker movement in England, anyone who followed the Quaker Way was considered part of the group. However, relentless persecution of individuals and small groups, and the need for Friends to care more adequately for each other, eventually led to formal definitions of Membership. British records of who is a Quaker have been kept since 1737. The experience of Friends is that spiritual growth is enhanced by the formal acceptance of commitment to the fellowship and acceptance of the responsibilities involved.</p>
<b>3.4.1 Requirements for Membership</b>	<b>3.4.2 Requirements</b>

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<p>There is no test of doctrine and no outward observance imposed for Membership.</p> <p>Members aim to be open to inner spiritual experience, be in harmony with Quaker Testimonies, and be willing to share in the responsibilities of the Meeting.</p> <p>Members usually find joy and spiritual refreshment through frequent participation in Meeting for Worship, which is the basis of the life of the Society.</p> <p>Members are encouraged to attend Business Meetings whenever possible, and to support the Society financially and in practical ways, within their abilities.</p>	<p>There is no test of doctrine and no outward observance imposed for Membership. Instead, applicants are expected to be open to inner spiritual experience, and be willing to share in the responsibilities of the Meeting. Members try to attend Meetings for Worship regularly, as a joy and a way of spiritual refreshment, as well as a contribution to the life of the Society. Members are expected to attend Business Meetings whenever possible, and to support the Society financially as they are able.</p>
<p><b>3.4.2 Preparation for applying for Membership</b></p>	<p><b>3.4.3 Preparation</b></p>
<p>Points worth considering before applying for Membership are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have I had substantial experience as an Attender?</li> <li>• Have I felt an increasing awareness of the spiritual dimension of life?</li> <li>• Am I well acquainted with our Testimonies, our beliefs, our origins, and <i>Advices &amp; Queries</i> (1.4.0)?</li> <li>• Am I willing to test my own individual leadings in Spirit-led discussion and discernment with others?</li> <li>• Am I comfortable to leave my former religious affiliation or with joint membership of both?</li> </ul>	<p>Points worth considering before applying for Membership are these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying for Membership usually follows extended experience as an Attender and an increasing awareness of the spiritual dimension of life.</li> <li>• Members are expected to be well acquainted with Quaker history, the Quaker testimonies and also the current <i>Advices &amp; Queries</i> (2008), and to be in harmony with them (1.4.0).</li> <li>• Sincerity and integrity are important features of the Quaker approach to life, as is a willingness to test individual leadings by Spirit-led discussion with others in the Society, seeking unity within the group.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.5 Readiness for Membership</b></p>	<p><b>3.5.0 Readiness for Membership</b></p>
<p>The Society offers a spiritual home for people who value the close linking of personal belief and daily life.</p> <p>Among the reasons for joining the Society are:</p>	<p>Common reasons for joining the Society are these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to affirm publicly one’s support for Quaker principles</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belonging and making a formal commitment to our spiritual community</li> <li>• Publicly affirming one’s support for our Quaker beliefs and practices</li> <li>• Strengthening the Society’s witness.</li> </ul> <p>Occasionally Attenders may have hesitations, e.g. because they feel unworthy of Quakers, or unable to accept the Testimonies in full, or have an ongoing allegiance to another church, or a general doubt about making long-term commitments, or financial expectations.</p> <p>These need not be an impediment to Membership. Attenders who feel any hesitation are encouraged to discuss this with a seasoned Friend.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• and community</li> <li>• to identify more closely with Quaker heritage</li> <li>• to enjoy more fully the fellowship of the group</li> <li>• to strengthen the Society’s witness</li> </ul> <p>The Society offers a spiritual home for people who value diversity, mutual support, the close linking of personal belief and living, and freedom from dogma. [YM14.21]</p>
	<p><b>3.5.2 Hesitations</b></p>
	<p>Occasionally an Attender may feel unsuited to Membership because they feel unworthy of Quakers, or unable to accept the testimonies in full, or have an ongoing allegiance to another church, or a general doubt about making long-term commitments. Such hesitations can be usefully discussed with Friends in a Clearness Meeting (4.4.0). Help may also be gained from reading such publications as <i>Quaker Faith &amp; Practice</i> (Britain Yearly Meeting) and <i>this we can say</i>.</p> <p>Financial considerations may also cause an Attender to hesitate to apply for Membership. Although [Members Friends] undertake to contribute to the funds needed to achieve the Society’s aims, they are asked to give only as they are able (5.6.0). It is not customary for collections to be made at Quaker events.</p>
<p><b>3.6 Becoming a Member</b></p>	<p><b>3.6.0 Becoming a Member</b></p>
<p><b>3.6.1 Application for Membership</b></p>	<p><b>3.6.1 Application</b></p>
<p>The Regional Meeting in which the applicant attends Meeting for Worship is responsible for membership applications. The applicant writes personally to the RM Clerk, who will acknowledge their email / letter and bring it</p>	<p>Responsibility for acceptance into Membership lies with the nearest Regional Meeting, after personal application in writing. The letter is signed by the applicant (unless by email)</p>

**Comment [A2]:** DIA: We believe this section is already implicit in the process outlined in the other sections, and recommend it be deleted.

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<p>to the next Regional Meeting for Worship for Business. Most Regional Meetings then follow a similar procedure to the one described below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On receipt of an application the RM Business Meeting ensures the appointment of at least two Visitors, who are experienced Friends.</li> <li>The Regional Meeting may take into account suggestions for Visitors from the applicant’s own worship meeting and / or its Oversight Committee, and preferably choose at least one Visitor already known to the applicant.</li> <li>The Visitors make contact with the applicant as soon as practicable and arrange a suitable time and place to meet. Possible matters to discuss are indicated below (3.7.2).</li> </ul>	<p>and addressed to the RM Clerk, who will immediately acknowledge it and bring it to the next Regional Meeting. Most Regional Meetings then follow a similar procedure to the one described below. On receipt of an application the RM Business Meeting appoints two Friends, called Visitors, to meet the applicant. In appointing Visitors, the Regional Meeting chooses experienced Friends who will have empathy with the applicant. The Meeting may take into account suggestions from Local or Recognised Meetings or from its own Oversight Committee, and preferably choose at least one Visitor already known to the applicant. The Visitors make contact with the applicant as soon as possible and arrange a suitable time and place to meet. Possible matters to discuss are indicated below (3.7.2).</p>
	<p><b>3.6.2 Admission</b></p> <p>After hearing the report from the Visitors, the RM Business Meeting decides whether or not to accept the applicant into Membership. A minute is made accordingly, and the applicant advised as soon as possible. If appropriate, the Membership list is amended, and the relevant Local Meeting or other group informed.</p> <p>The Meeting may occasionally feel led to offer Membership to someone who has a long and/or close association with the Society, but has not applied for Membership.</p>
	<p><b>3.6.3 Support</b></p> <p>It is important that a new Member receives the support of Friends in becoming part of the group. To this end, the Regional Meeting may appoint a Friend or Friends to assist the new Member.</p>
<p><b>3.7 Advice for Visitors to applicants for Membership</b></p>	<p><b>3.7.0 Advice for Visitors to applicants for Membership</b></p>
<p><b>3.7.1 General</b></p>	<p><b>3.7.1 General</b></p>
<p>Visitors are encouraged to prepare for meeting the applicant by reading <u>Chapter 1</u></p>	<p>Visitors are encouraged to prepare for meeting the applicant by reading Chapter</p>

**Comment [A3]:** DiA: For noting: This is now in 3.7.4

**Comment [A4]:** DiA: As this is now included in 3.7.4, we recommend this section be deleted.

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<p>and section <b>3.4</b> of this <i>Handbook</i>.</p> <p>The meeting is conducted in a spirit of worship-sharing. The occasion is an opportunity for in-depth sharing, enabling experiences to be exchanged, leading the applicant to fuller understanding of Quakerism and the implications of Membership.</p> <p>Sometimes it is evident that the applicant is not ready for Membership, and the Visitors – or indeed the Meeting for Worship for Business – will indicate this to them, gently and with respect.</p>	<p>1. and Section 3.4.0 of this handbook. The meeting is best begun by a short period of silent worship. Then the occasion is an opportunity for in-depth sharing, enabling experiences to be exchanged and fuller understanding of the Quaker Way.</p>
<b>3.7.2 Topics to Discuss with Applicants</b>	<b>3.7.2 Topics</b>
<p>The discussion with the applicant is expected to be free-flowing and responsive to the applicant’s needs. Topics that the Visitors ensure are addressed during the visit include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Society’s foundation is Christian. How does this heritage speak to the applicant? Are they open to Light from other sources?</li> <li>• The Testimonies (1.4.2) and <i>Advices and Queries</i> are central to our lives. How do they speak to the applicant?</li> <li>• Members have responsibilities that include contributing to the spiritual, practical and financial support of the Meeting. Is this a cause for any hesitation?</li> <li>• Quakers are not free to make public statements or take public action in the name of other Friends or of the Society without prior agreement by the Regional Meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Visitors may also check the applicant’s contact details on our membership database.</p>	<p>Points that the Visitors might mention include these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Society was essentially Christian in its foundation and for many, this continues in its inspiration and culture. We recognise that Light may come from many other sources.</li> <li>• The testimonies (1.4.2) are not beliefs to be accepted but guides to personal behaviour, and Australian Friends differ in their interpretation and acceptance of them.</li> <li>• Quakers are not free to make public statements or take public action in the name of other Friends without prior agreement by the Regional Meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>3.7.3 The Report</b>	<b>3.7.3 The Report</b>
<p>In preparing a report on the visit to be heard at the Regional Meeting for Worship for Business, Visitors are asked to include information about the applicant’s religious and spiritual journey towards the Society,</p>	<p>In preparing a report on the visit for the Regional Meeting, Visitors are asked to include information about the applicant’s religious and spiritual journey towards the Society, and an assessment of where the</p>

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<p>and an assessment of where the applicant stands in relation to its principles and Testimonies.</p> <p>The visitors should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Check the accuracy of all factual information contained in their report with the applicant.</li> <li>2. Complete the report in full, including a recommendation about the application.</li> <li>3. Finally, present the report to the Regional Meeting for Worship for Business.</li> </ol>	<p>applicant stands in relation to its principles and testimonies. The report may include a recommendation about the application, if that is the Regional Meeting’s tradition, though that may preclude showing the report to the applicant to check its factual accuracy. The applicant leaves the RM while their application is being considered. What happens to the report after Regional Meeting has considered it is for each Regional Meeting to decide. Some archive reports for possible future use, others destroy them to protect confidentiality.</p>
<p><b>3.7.4 Considering the Membership Application</b></p> <p>After hearing the report from the Visitors, the Regional Meeting for Worship for Business discerns whether to accept the applicant into Membership.</p> <p>The applicant is normally asked to leave the room while their application is being considered.</p> <p>The Clerk writes a minute accordingly, and the applicant, together with their Worship Meeting, is advised as soon as possible. If the applicant is accepted into membership, the Membership Secretary amends the membership database.</p> <p>Usually a new Member is presented with an appropriate book, appropriately inscribed.</p> <p>Applicants’ letters and their Visitors’ reports may be archived: this could be done in a confidential process to protect privacy.</p> <p>It is important that any applicant receives the support of Friends. This may be especially important if an applicant is deemed not ready for membership.</p>	

**Comment [A5]:** DiA: For noting: New section

**Comment [A6]:** DiA: We recommend RMs should archive the reports using a confidential archive process.

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<p><b>3.8 Children and Junior Young Friends</b></p>	<p><b>3.8.0 Child members</b></p>
<p>Meetings are committed to nurturing the spiritual lives of all children in the Quaker community (aged 0-17). Children are offered opportunities to develop an understanding of Quaker beliefs and practice (1.4.0). Meetings have a responsibility to children to nurture their spiritual life, and to live the expression that our children are ‘in the care of the Meeting’.</p> <p>Carers for the Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ Meetings and gatherings are appointed according to the Society’s child protection policies and procedures. (insert cross reference)</p> <p>Friends are welcome to bring children to Quaker Meetings for Worship and to Quaker activities.</p> <p>Some Meetings have regular sessions for children, usually during Meeting for Worship, with age appropriate activities developed by approved child carers. Some Meetings schedule all-ages Meeting for Worship. Often a regular Sunday or another time in the week or month is agreed upon for such a Meeting.</p> <p>Older children and young people of the Meeting aged from 12 to 17 are known as Junior Young Friends (JYFs).</p> <p>Meetings are encouraged to run age-appropriate activities for their JYFs. Other gatherings (including residential weekend gatherings) are arranged during the year, e.g. by a Regional Meeting, with an invitation for JYFs from other Regional Meetings to attend.</p> <p>A special program for JYFs is usually arranged at Yearly Meeting (6.2.2).</p> <p>When there is an AYM Children and JYFs Worker or an AYM committee, other</p>	<p><b>3.8.1 Children</b></p> <p>Meetings value their children (Boulding 1996; Bayes 2003), and seek to offer opportunities for them to develop an understanding of Quaker beliefs and practice (1.4.0). <i>Quaker Ways</i> have been explained for children by Stevenson (1996), for instance.</p> <p>A child who is active within a Quaker community may be listed as a ‘child or youth of the Meeting’ and counted in the annual tabulation submitted to Yearly Meeting (6.2.5). Such a listing represents recognition that the child is the responsibility of the Meeting and an integral part of it.</p> <p>The listing of children is done by the RM Oversight Committee (2.5.5), following approaches to the child and the parents. The committee is expected to review the child membership list regularly and treat as lapsed the membership of children who have moved away or ceased attending.</p> <p>When the child reaches adulthood, this may be seen as a kind of graduation and Meetings may choose to mark the occasion in some way.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, a child of any age who wishes to be a Member of the Society (as distinct from a member of the Meeting) may apply and be visited in the normal way.</p>

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<p>gatherings or camps at the national level may be organised by or through them.</p> <p>Families are encouraged to participate in Local Meeting and Regional Meeting ‘gatherings away’, as well as camps and Yearly Meeting, to develop a broader sense of being part of the Quaker community.</p> <p>In consultation with their parents, a child may be listed as a Child of the Meeting (if aged from 0 to 11) or Junior Young Friend (if aged from 12 to 17) and counted in the annual tabulation submitted to Yearly Meeting (6.2.5). Such a listing represents recognition that the child is an integral part of the Meeting.</p> <p>This process is managed by the Regional Meeting Oversight Committee, which reviews these lists regularly. Reviewing the lists may also be done by the Local Meeting Oversight Committee.</p> <p>When Junior Young Friends reach the age of 18, they are invited to be listed as Attenders.</p>	
<b>Now included above</b>	<b>3.8.2 Junior Young Friends</b>
	<p>Children of the Meeting aged between 12 and 18 [SC7.15.12] are sometimes known as Junior Young Friends (JYFs), and separate gatherings of this group are usually arranged at Yearly Meeting (6.2.2) and are sometimes arranged by a Regional Meeting with an invitation for JYFs from other RMs to attend.</p>
<b>3.9 Young Friends</b>	<b>3.9.0 Young Friends</b>
<p>For further information on Young Friends (YFs) go to the YF webpage accessed through <a href="https://www.quakersaustralia.info/YF">https://www.quakersaustralia.info/YF</a></p> <p>Australia Young Friends began in 1886. We are a welcoming community of people aged 18 years to around 30. Our activities are conducted and guided by Quaker principles,</p>	<p>Australian Young Friends (YFs) began in 1886 (Appendix B). They are a welcoming community of people aged 18 years and over [SC7.15. 12], with fluctuating membership, structure and activities. They include those committed to Quakerism and also those wishing to explore or understand it. There are usually two regular gatherings</p>

**Comment [A7]:** DIA: Text submitted by YFs at YM18

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<p>especially with our involvement in the areas of refugees, environment, the arts and recognition of First Nations Peoples.</p> <p>There are usually two regular gatherings of YFs, one in the week before Yearly Meeting and another during Easter. In addition, various activities are held between times. YFs are committed to building and maintaining links within our section of Friends World Committee for Consultation – Australia West Pacific Section (FWCC-AWPS) and also the global YF community. YFs have been autonomous since 1982 and have our own nominations process to fill positions within the group and on relevant AYM committees. Australian Yearly Meeting gives some financial assistance to YFs, who arrange our own fund-raising efforts also.</p> <p>YFs welcome newcomers of all varieties, from those who have grown up in a Quaker family, to those who are simply Quaker curious or attend a Quaker meeting. Although we're based in Australia, visitors from overseas are always welcome.</p>	<p>of Australian Young Friends, one in the week before Yearly Meeting (Chapter 6) and another during Easter. In addition, various activities are held between times. Young Friends are committed to building and maintaining links within our section of Friends World Committee for Consultation (5.4.3) and also the global YF community (5.4.4).</p> <p>Australian Young Friends have been autonomous since 1982 and they have their own nominations process to fill positions within the group and on relevant AYM committees. Australia Yearly Meeting gives some financial assistance to Young Friends, who arrange their own fund-raising efforts also. For further information go to the YF website, accessed through <a href="http://www.quakers.org.au">www.quakers.org.au</a>.</p>
<p><b>3.10 Isolated Friends</b></p>	<p><b>3.10.0 Isolated Friends</b></p>
<p>Some Members and would-be Attenders live too far from others for regular attendance at Meetings for Worship, or are otherwise isolated, e.g. by illness. They are encouraged to attend online Meetings for Worship, engage with social media (INSERT WEB LINK), receive newsletters, and participate in other Quaker activities as feasible. The AYM website has many resources for isolated Friends and the AYM Secretary can provide further support.</p> <p>The Regional Meeting, and especially its Ministry and Care Committee (INSERT CROSS REFERENCE), has a responsibility for remote Friends who live within their region, offering support and caring for their growth as</p>	<p>Some Members and would-be Attenders live too far from others for regular attendance at Meetings for Worship. Their needs are of special concern to Elders and Overseers of the relevant Regional Meeting.</p> <p>Such isolated people are urged to make themselves known to RM office-holders. Contacts are available from the AYM Secretary. They will then regularly receive the RM newsletter, and may read <i>The Australian Friend</i> at <a href="http://australianfriend.org">http://australianfriend.org</a>. The AYM Secretary will add names of Isolated Friends who wish to receive the monthly <i>AYM Secretary's Newsletter</i> to the mailing list. Also they can make contact with the conveners of AYM committees</p>

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<p>spiritual seekers and as members of the Society of Friends.</p>	<p>(5.3.0).[YM13.43.1] The list of <i>Members and Attenders</i> (5.5.4) shows the location of the nearest Quakers, who would welcome contact. There are further opportunities for personal encounter in the course of travel (4.7.0) or attendance at Yearly Meetings (Chapter 6). In addition, the Internet provides links to various online Quaker discussion groups and The <i>Australian Friend</i><a href="http://AustralianFriend.org">http://AustralianFriend.org</a>[YM13.43.1]</p>
<p><b>3.11 Checking our membership database</b></p>	
<p>Friends are individually responsible for keeping their personal details up to date, by notifying the Membership Secretary of any change in their details. Details can be checked at <a href="https://www.quakersaustralia.info/friend-finder">https://www.quakersaustralia.info/friend-finder</a> (requires sign-in).</p> <p>It is also advisable for Worship Meetings to check their lists regularly.</p> <p>The usual process is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ministry and Care Committee, or a designated Friend, checks the list and confirms those names and contact details which are correct.</li> <li>2. Ministry and Care Committee, or the designated Friend, decides which names are no longer associated with their meeting, and may need to be moved to 'Unassigned' or to another Meeting or Worshipping Group or – in rare circumstances - possibly a process to lapse them may be initiated (which must be confirmed by the Regional Meeting). Ministry and Care Committee, or the designated Friend, also decides if there are names of Attenders which should be added.</li> <li>3. Ministry and Care Committee then contacts those individuals about whom there is a doubt or who should be added. Some attenders may not wish to be added</li> </ol>	

**Comment [A8]:** DiA: For noting: This section was not previously in the Handbook.

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<p>to the list, and this wish needs to be respected. Some Friends who have not attended meeting for several years may not be ready to change the Meeting with which they have been affiliated, or to discern if they still consider themselves Friends.</p> <p>This checking is sometimes the only contact between the Meeting and the Member or Attender, and the Friend making contact (directly if possible) is conscious of the feelings of the person involved.</p> <p>4. If there are changes to be made after careful discernment, in conjunction with the individuals concerned</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If the Friend is an Attender or wishes to be registered as an Attender, their name can be added to the membership database directly by the Membership Secretary.</li> <li>b. If the Friend is a Member, then only a change in their contact details can be given to the Membership Secretary, and then only with their express permission. Any change in the status of a Member (transfer to another Regional Meeting, lapsing, termination) must be brought to a regional Meeting for Worship for Business for discernment and decision. The Membership Secretary actions the change after the Regional Meeting Minute. Add cross references</li> </ol>	
<p><b>3.12 Transfer of Membership</b></p>	<p><b>3.11.0 Transfer of Membership</b></p>
<p>Every Member of the Society is recorded as belonging to a particular Regional Meeting, usually that within which the Member lives. When a Member moves only temporarily from the area of one Regional Meeting to live within the area of another, their RM</p>	<p>Every Member of the Society is recorded as belonging to a particular Regional Meeting, usually that within which the Member lives. When a Member moves only temporarily from the area of one Regional Meeting to</p>

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<p>Clerk or Membership Secretary may notify the receiving Regional Meeting, but no formal transfer is needed.</p> <p>However, if the Member moves permanently to another Regional Meeting area, or overseas, a transfer of Membership is usually initiated by the Member through their original Regional Meeting (<a href="#">Supplement 2</a>).</p> <p>Members of other Yearly Meetings living permanently in Australia are encouraged to have their Membership transferred to the appropriate Regional Meeting here, and their names included in the contact database.</p> <p>Please see <a href="#">4.5.0</a> for more information about travellers, visitors and sojourners.</p>	<p>live within the area of another, the first RM Clerk or Membership Secretary may notify the receiving Regional Meeting, but no formal transfer is needed. However, if the Member moves permanently to another RM area, or overseas, a transfer of Membership is usually initiated by the original Regional Meeting in consultation with the Member (Supplement 2).</p> <p>Members of other Yearly Meetings living permanently in Australia are encouraged to have their Membership transferred to the appropriate Regional Meeting here, and their names included in the list of Members of that Regional Meeting.</p>
<p><b>3.13 End of Membership</b></p>	<p><b>3.12.0 End of Membership</b></p>
<p><b>3.13.1 Resignation</b></p>	<p><b>3.12.1 Resignation</b></p>
<p>A Member may resign from the Society by writing to the Regional Meeting Clerk.</p> <p>The Regional Meeting Oversight Committee may explore with the resigning Member the reasons for their decision before the resignation is included in the agenda, if the resigning Member wishes.</p> <p>The resignation is usually formally accepted at a future Business Meeting, and the Clerk confirms the fact in writing, indicating that the Meeting would be open to future contact by the former Member.</p>	<p>A Member may resign from the Society by writing to the RM Clerk. The resignation is formally accepted at the next Business Meeting, and the Clerk confirms the fact in writing, indicating the Meeting’s openness to future contact. The RM Oversight Committee may explore with the resigning Member the reasons for the decision, if doing so would assist the Meeting and if the resigning Member is willing.</p>
<p><b>3.13.2 Lapsing</b></p>	<p><b>3.12.2 Lapsing</b></p>
<p>A Membership may be recorded by the Regional Meeting as having lapsed if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Member has had no contact with the Meeting for at least three years</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Either the Oversight Committee has had no success in tracing the Member</li> </ul>	<p>The Membership may be recorded by the Regional Meeting as having lapsed if a Member’s address has been unknown for at least three years, and the Oversight Committee has had no success in tracing the Member. A Regional Meeting could also consider a Membership lapsed if a Member does not respond to reasonable</p>

**Chapter 3 draft revision**

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Or the Member does not respond to reasonable attempts to contact them</li> <li>• Or, when asked if they wish to continue to be a Member, their response is negative or ambiguous.</li> </ul>	<p>attempts to contact them, or their response is either ambiguous or not given in writing.</p>
<p><b>3.13.3 Termination</b></p>	<p><b>3.12.3 Termination</b></p>
<p>On rare occasions, if a Member has brought the Society into disrepute or taken action clearly contrary to Quaker principles and practices, a Regional Meeting may take the initiative in ending the person’s Membership. Such a step is to be undertaken only after prayerful discernment and taking into account the likely pain to the person concerned.</p> <p>The Regional Meeting must abide by the relevant parts of the respective Rules of Incorporation of the Regional Meeting and Australia Yearly Meeting (Supplement 1) when dealing with such situations, as well as the grievance policies of the Society (4.6.0).</p>	<p>On rare occasions, if a Member has brought the Society into disrepute or taken action clearly contrary to Quaker principles and practices, a Regional Meeting may take the initiative in ending the person’s Membership. However, such a step is to be undertaken only after prayerful discernment and taking into account the likely pain to the person concerned. The Regional Meeting has to abide by the relevant parts of the respective rules of incorporation of the Regional Meeting and Australia Yearly Meeting (Supplement 1) when dealing with such situations, as well as the grievance policies of the Society (4.6.0).</p>