

Membership Policy

Rationale:

Our organisation is based on community development principles and differs significantly from the other paid and voluntary social services. The role of members and our focus on strengths and reciprocity marks us out from other volunteer roles.

Policy:

We encourage everyone to contribute to their communities and to promote community leadership. We continually search for ways for members to contribute to our organisation and to enhance the lives of others. We support intergenerational relationships so people of any age can join as full members. However our work and support is focused on seniors/kaumātua.

Practice:

Becoming a member When we are approached to support a senior/kaumātua we provide immediate assistance even if they are not yet a member. Once we have built trust and provided support we invite them to become members.

Associate members Some seniors/kaumātua need support to improve their circumstances before they can support others. In this situation, they are invited to become associate members and they do not need police or reference checks. However, using our gifts and abilities to support others is a key to improving wellbeing. As soon as we identify a way in which they can contribute, we will encourage them to become full members.

Full members who may go into the homes of isolated and vulnerable people must have police and reference checks, undertake induction and sign the Code of Conduct and Confidentiality forms. They can be of any age but support is given to seniors/kaumātua.

Accessibility We will keep membership fees low so they are not a hindrance to new members. However we will encourage further donations or automatic payments through the year that help our organisation's funding. We will give receipts for tax purposes for these donations.

Recruitment

Our organisation is based on face-to-face relationships and knowledge of our organisation is best spread through long conversations. People who express an interest will be invited to a meeting or given an opportunity to meet with another member of the core group.

Diversity

Relationships form most easily when people have interests or values in common. We will actively seek to recruit members from throughout our communities so we can carefully match members likely to enjoy each other's company.

Resources and References

Associate and full membership forms
Police and reference check forms
Membership agreement
Code of Conduct and Confidentiality forms.

Policy approved by Trust on:	Due for review before:	Signed (co-chair):
25 June 2018	Sept 2020	