

Membership Options.



Throughout the year, our co-design group has been preparing proposals on how membership at InternetNZ should be structured. As an Incorporated Society, our members make up the fabric of the organisation and play a key role, particularly in electing our Council. Members also hold a wealth of information and expertise that can support Internet development and impactful policy positioning.

Several themes underpin how the co-design group has designed the membership options:

- There should be a clear value proposition for members
- We want a membership that reflects the diversity of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and we need to know what that looks like
- There should be no financial barriers to joining InternetNZ.
- Members should understand, uphold, and adhere to the Society's objects, values, and code of conduct, taking responsibility for their actions and interactions with other members.

Purpose and Value

The purpose and value of membership should be clear to current and potential future members.

PROPOSED OPTIONS

Proposed statement of membership: Membership supports InternetNZ to give effect to its objects and the advancement of the Internet in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Adhere to the Code of Conduct: Members should adhere to the Society's code of conduct. InternetNZ is updating its Code of Conduct. The proposed approach is a values framework and set of rules that guide all interactions between the Society, its members and the public. This framework aims to create a safe and welcoming environment grounded in the following:

- Mō te katoa | Inclusivity
- Whakaute | Respect
- Ngākau pono | Integrity
- Haepapa | Responsibility.

Create dispute resolution pathways: We need dispute resolution processes to ensure a safe and welcoming space for our members, staff and the public. These processes enable us to respond appropriately and effectively when issues arise. We can achieve this through:

- creating a dispute resolution process (required by legislation)
- providing avenues to raise issues for discussion and consideration by the Society.

Engaged and Diverse Membership

We want a membership that reflects the diversity of Aotearoa, New Zealand and there should be no financial barrier to joining.

PROPOSED OPTIONS

Offer fees free membership: Becoming a member is free. Free membership will reduce barriers to access and alleviate financial hardship.

OR

Fees set by Council: This is a constitutional arrangement in which the Council sets the fee from time to time, with decisions made keeping the principle of no cost barrier in mind.

OR

Create tiered memberships: When a new member signs up, they can choose a membership type based on the level of engagement they'd prefer. These tiers would be full member, observer and supporter and have different fees and/or engagement requirements.

Offer engagement-based membership: We want an engaged membership that votes in elections, participates in discussions, and completes the annual member survey.

Encourage diverse membership and enable measurement of demographics: We want a membership that reflects the diversity of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and we need to be able to measure this. At the moment, we do not collect data about membership demographics.

Members can activate their voice at InternetNZ: A constitutional provision for member interest hubs to be established to facilitate discussion and relationships around specific topics, including topics or geographical regions.

Types of Membership

The types of membership available should be fit for purpose. There is an opportunity to examine aspects of the Fellows programme to ensure transparency, clarity of purpose, and support for diversity of membership.

PROPOSED OPTIONS

Council sets process for becoming a Fellow: A constitutional requirement that the Council sets the process, decision-making criteria, and parameters (e.g. max no. per year) for appointing Fellows. This must be available to all members.

Amend constitutional criteria for Fellows: Appointments to Fellows would be reserved for people who have made an outstanding contribution to InternetNZ. A category of "Honorary member" would be introduced to recognise people who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of the Internet in New Zealand more broadly. This recognition would not come with membership rights, privileges, or duties. All current Fellows would retain their Fellowships or could opt for an Honorary position.

OR

Retain current constitutional criteria: The current criteria of "outstanding contribution to the development of the Internet in New Zealand or the Society" remains.