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.

The themes that underpin how the membership options are designed

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 co-design group proposes the following options to ensure the purpose and value of membership is clear to current and future members.

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

The co-design group proposes these options to ensure InternetNZ's membership reflects the diversity of Aotearoa, New Zealand, while eliminating any financial barriers to joining.

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

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

Offer tiered memberships: When a new member signs up, they 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 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 co-design group proposes the following options to make InternetNZ membership types more effective and relevant.

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.

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