



## **MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

### **Introduction**

The Broadcasting Services Act 1992 (the Act) outlines the legal framework for community broadcasting and explains the role the sector plays in delivering diverse media services that reflect a sense of Australian identity, character, and cultural diversity.

The Act vests responsibility for monitoring all broadcasting services, including community broadcasting services, in the Australian Communications and Media Authority. ACMA is responsible for allocating and determining the conditions that apply to broadcasting licences, and for guiding industry groups in developing Codes of Practices.

The Community Radio Codes of Practice set out the guiding principles and policies for programming on community broadcasting stations and also outline the operational standards for stations that hold a community broadcasting licence.

This policy complies with the requirements of ACMA and Codes of Practice Number 1.4

## **Background**

Members of Montreal Community Theatre Inc (2TVR) come from a wide range of backgrounds and become general volunteers or financial members either to:

- support the organisation through membership on the committee of management and/or
- be actively involved as general volunteers in station operations, programming, on-air and associated functions.

2TVR responsibilities in broadcasting to meet its community interest and community participation obligations include ensuring that there are written policy documents in place that outline:

- the principles of general volunteer and financial membership
- the rights and responsibilities of general volunteer and financial members within the organisation
- the rights and responsibilities of the organisation to general volunteer and financial members.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that ALL from the community who read this policy are informed about their rights and responsibilities within the organisation and of the rights and responsibilities of Montreal Community Theatre Inc (2TVR) towards its general volunteer and financial members.

## **Membership Policy**

1. Financial Membership is for a calendar year with the membership fee for financial members reviewed and recommended by the Board and voted on at the Annual General Meeting.
2. Only financial members are eligible to vote at the AGM and to hold positions on the Committee of Management

3. General volunteers, once approved, need not reapply annually and retain their involvement status on an ongoing basis
4. Financial Membership is applied for on the membership application form and lodged with payment of the membership fee.
5. General Volunteers apply through the Volunteer Application form and pay no membership or joining fee.
6. Upon application for general volunteer or financial membership, applicants will receive relevant documentation outlining their rights and responsibilities as members, along with those of Montreal Community Theatre Inc. (2TVR) towards general volunteer and financial members.
7. New Financial Membership and General Volunteers applications must be approved by the Board at monthly Board meetings.
8. Montreal Community Theatre Inc. (2TVR) will only refuse membership applications based on specific, transparent and reasonable criteria as outlined in the Constitution, these being that:
  - the applicant is known to be not of good character or demonstrates unacceptable behaviour
  - the applicant is known to hold a criminal record or
  - the applicant is known to have provided false information in the application.
9. The applicant may appeal a Board decision to refuse membership under terms and conditions set out in the Constitution.
10. Membership and the rights, obligations and entitlements attached to membership, are not transferable to another person and will terminate on cessation of such membership.

11. A person ceases to be a member if the person:
  - a. dies
  - b. resigns membership
  - c. is expelled, or
  - d. fails to pay the annual membership fee
  
12. A register of general volunteer and financial members and relevant details is kept and regularly updated. Volunteers engaged in station administration, programming, technical support and general support can be purely volunteers or they may choose to become financial members. This ensures 2TVR does not exclude anyone from participation in the operations of the radio station. Community Members may wish to be general volunteers but not financial members, with no interest in attending meetings or voting in meetings
  
13. Volunteers members and financial members are advised of their rights and responsibilities towards 2TVR and the rights and responsibilities of 2TVR towards general volunteers and financial volunteers in the Volunteer Rights and Responsibilities booklet.
  
14. Montreal Community Theatre Inc. (2TVR) has the responsibility to:
  - Carefully consider all members and volunteers suggestions and comments
  - Provide members and volunteers with ready access to the Management Committee and to ordinary meetings of the association and committees
  - Provide all volunteers and members with easy access to all Policies and Procedures and the opportunity to comment and suggest improvements, changes and additions to these policies and procedures through submissions to the management committee via email, personal presentation or contact with the station or theatre executive or any volunteer

- Provide simple, straight forward and easy access for participation, decision making and involvement and MUST not have any burdens or restrictions which prohibit community involvement in any areas of operation. We strive to enable anyone anywhere in our region the opportunity to become involved in the selection and provision of programming and the opportunity to further enhance the operation in general by not fearing exclusion and to feel welcome to become part of the organisation, either volunteering or in a financial membership opportunity