



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2017-18 Ross House Association Membership Fee – \$85 (+GST) per annum

Ross House Association is Australia's only self-managed community owned building, home to over 50 small not for profit community groups working towards social justice and environmental sustainability. When you become a member of Ross House Association, you become part of a supportive community taking real action for social change.

Ross House has been an integral part of Melbourne's social change community for the last 25 years. We are an active agent of change and a model of community self-management.

As a member you can be part of shaping Ross House; your organisation has the right to participate in the decision making processes of the Association, vote at the Annual General Meeting and any special general meetings and take part in sub-committees and the Committee, the governing body that oversees the management of Ross House and its resources.

Name of Organisation: _____

Contact Person: _____

Position Held: _____

Address: _____

Postal Address (if different from above):

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

Website Address: _____

We hereby nominate _____ **as**
Delegated Representative to Ross House Association and

_____ **and** _____
as alternative representatives.

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Please answer all questions and attach supporting documentation.

PART 1

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

1. Your organisation is:

- an Incorporated Association YES/NO
- a not for profit group YES/NO
- actively seeking incorporated status YES/NO
- a not for profit company limited by guarantee YES/NO
- auspiced or controlled by a major institution YES/NO
- other (please specify) _____

1.2. Does your organisation have five or more members?

YES / NO

1.3. Does your organisation have fewer than 570 hours of paid staff time per week?

YES / NO

1.4. Does your organisation have less than two million (\$2,000,000) net worth of assets?

YES / NO



If you answered NO to question 1.2 and/or 1.3 and/or 1.4, please contact the Membership and Tenancy Officer to discuss your application further.



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1.5. Total membership of your organisation is:

_____ individuals and/or _____ organisations

1.6. Current Office Holders (i.e. Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary etc)

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

Name _____ Title _____

1.7. All other Committee / Board members

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____



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PART 2 ORGANISATIONAL AIMS AND PURPOSES

Ross House Association Membership is limited to organisations that fulfil the following criteria:

ONLY COMPLETE 1 (ONE) SECTION FROM THE LIST BELOW

A self-help group for individuals with a particular disadvantage

(Fill out Section A)

or

An umbrella organisation for the above mentioned groups?

(Fill out Section B)

or

An organisation working toward a sustainable environment?

(Fill out Section C)

or

An organisation working towards social justice?

(Fill out Section D)

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SECTION A **SELF HELP GROUPS**

Question A1: The following types of disadvantage are named in the RHA constitution. Is your organisation a self-help group for any of these? Please tick any or all as applicable.

- People who receive a low income
- Older people
- People who are culturally and linguistically different
- Aboriginal people
- People with a disability
- Women
- Youth
- Gay, lesbian or transgender people

Question A2: Do you claim to represent any other disadvantaged group?
(Please explain)

Question A3: Are the majority of your members from the disadvantaged group or their families?

YES / NO (please circle)

Question A4: Does the majority of your Committee/Board represent disadvantaged people or their families?

YES / NO (please circle)

Question A5: Please provide us with a descriptive list of your organisations' current activities (Please complete this section and attach separate sheet if necessary)

Question A6: Briefly explain how your organisation fulfils the criteria within Section A (Please complete this section and attach separate sheet if necessary)

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SECTION B **UMBRELLA GROUPS**

Question B1: Does your group have aims/purposes similar to any of the following statements? Please tick any or all as applicable.

- Co-ordination of groups suffering disadvantage as listed in Section A
- Advocacy and lobbying on their behalf
- Raising public awareness on the issues
- Provision of resources, training and assistance to member groups

Question B2: Is full membership to your organisation reserved to the group(s) you serve?

YES / NO (please circle)

Question B3: Please provide us with a descriptive list of your organisations' current activities (Please complete this section and attach separate sheet if necessary)

Question B4: Briefly explain how your organisation fulfils the criteria within Section B (Please complete this section and attach separate sheet if necessary)

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SECTION C
GROUPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Question C1: Does your group have aims/purposes similar to any of the following statements? Please tick any or all as applicable.

- Environmental action
- Environmental research
- Raising public awareness on environmental issues

Question C2: Does your group accept anyone who supports your aims as a full member?

YES / NO (please circle)

Question C3: Are all full members able to vote and stand for the committee?

YES / NO

Question C4: Please provide us with a descriptive list of your organisations' current activities (Please complete this section and attach separate sheet if necessary)

Question C5: Briefly explain how your organisation fulfils the criteria within Section C (Please complete this section and attach separate sheet if necessary)

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SECTION D
GROUPS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Question D1: In addition to your group's principle aim/goal, do you have aims/purposes similar to any of the following statements? Please tick any or all as applicable.

- Promoting human rights
- Removing some form of disadvantage

Question D2: Does your group accept anyone who supports your aims as a full member?

YES / NO (please circle)

Question D3: Are all full members able to vote and stand for the committee?

YES / NO (please circle)

Question D4: Please provide us with a descriptive list of your organisations' current activities (Please complete this section and attach separate sheet if necessary)

Question D5: Briefly explain how your organisation fulfils the criteria within Section D (Please complete this section and attach separate sheet if necessary)



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PART 3

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- I have responded to all questions relevant to my organisation
- I have NOT attached a cheque/cash for payment of the membership fee

I have attached relevant supporting documentation;

- Brief bios for all Committee / Board Members***
- A paragraph regarding your **group's vision/mission/goals** and how it fulfils these goals*
- A paragraph regarding **how your group engages the target community** in its decision making process*
- Certificate of Incorporation** (or a letter stating that you have applied for incorporation)
- Constitution** (if available)
- Annual Report** (if available)
- Strategic Plan** (if available)

* must be provided

I (print name) _____ applying on behalf of

(organisation) _____ agree to support

the values and principles of Ross House Association and conform to its Constitution.

Signed: _____ **Date:** ____ / ____ / ____

Submit a hard copy of this application along with supporting documents to:

Membership & Tenancy Officer
Ross House Association
247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000

Please also send an electronic copy to: rosshouse@rosshouse.org.au



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PART 4

ABOUT ROSS HOUSE

Applicants can request a copy of the Ross House Association Constitution or download it from the Ross House website → www.rosshouse.org.au

Our Purpose

To work towards a just and environmentally sustainable society for small community organisations through: managing and owning a building, providing support and resources, developing strategies to overcome the causes of discrimination, and encouraging participation and shared decision making.

Our Vision

A just, sustainable and creative society in which people and the environment are nurtured and all have the resources and skills to participate, cooperate and provide mutual support.

Mission Statement

We support people to build strong organisations which overcome disadvantage and work towards a sustainable future. We champion the management of publicly owned resources for the public good.

Our Principles

- i. Communities and their members have the right to the resources and skills necessary to realise their potential.
- ii. Each generation has an obligation to protect the environment for future generations.
- iii. There should be no limits to learning: education is empowerment.
- iv. Access and equity for all is a public, government and community responsibility.
- v. All people directly affected by forms of discrimination have a right to speak out and act on their own behalf.
- vi. A culture of inclusion and equity is created through participatory decision making and cooperation.
- vii. Public assets should be held in trust and managed for the public good.

Our Values

The Ross House Association embraces these values and seeks to demonstrate them in our interactions with each other and the community.

Participation and Co-operation

We believe the following are key elements of participation and co-operation:

- To develop and promote a culture of inclusion through participating in decision making & implementation
- To provide an environment where all people are given a fair go
- To care for self and others
- To acknowledge & celebrate successes and ideas

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- To work co-operatively as a team (as equals)
- To consult to achieve shared goals
- To keep people informed
- To be understanding and be aware of others, their culture, accept diversity and seek different perspectives and approaches.

Respect

We believe the following are key elements of respect:

- To treat others with consideration & regard
- To respect each other's point of view
- To acknowledge people's strengths and weaknesses
- To respect each other's individuality, attitudes & opinions
- To understand and respect the boundaries of your role and the roles of others

Integrity

We believe the following are key elements of integrity:

- To ensure consistency between words and deeds
- To do what you say you will do
- To ensure timely and effective decision-making
- To ensure timely implementation
- To act in accordance with RHA principles and values
- To accept accountability for your own actions
- To be honest, fair and reliable

Evaluation and Innovation

We believe the following are key elements of evaluation and innovation:

- To re-evaluate our own work
- To remain flexible
- To be aware of and respond to changes in circumstances, the community and membership
- To remain open minded and listening