



George Town Council

DRAFT Professional Organisation Membership Policy

Policy No.11 - Version 2

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Introduction

There are a range of professional bodies associated with Local Government personnel and specialising in Local Government matters. These provide a variety of learning and networking opportunities for staff. Professional bodies have a range of membership fees which are a recognised cost to participate in conferences.

Background

In order to ensure that staff have opportunities to extend their skills and knowledge, membership to local government professional bodies is encouraged by Council.

Policy Statement

This policy reflects the Council's standard approach to staff membership of professional organisations and will also detail contributions to be made by the Council to specific staff attendance at conferences or meetings of these organisations.

Statement of Principles

To encourage staff to participate in the opportunities for professional development.

Link to Strategic Plan

This Policy aligns with the George Town Strategic Plan in that it promotes innovation and responsibility within the organisational culture.

Goal 1: To be a responsible, accountable local government.

Strategy: Implement continuous improvement plans and appropriate staff development and training programs.

Objective: Facilitate continuous improvement in Council operations and service delivery.

Internal Council Documents

- George Town Council Strategic Plan 2012-2017
- George Town Council Employment Policy No. 1

Definitions

Workers means George Town Council elected members and employees

Membership - General Manager

In line with the General Manager's contract of employment, the Council will support membership of (LGMA) Local Government Managers Australia. Council will also support the General Manager's attendance at the LGMA Annual State Conference and the LGMA Annual National Conference.

Membership - Management Team

The Council will support membership of one local government associated professional organisation as determined appropriate by the General Manager and payment of membership fees and cost for attendance at one conference annually in line with the individual's contract of employment.

Membership - Other Staff

Staff members are to be encouraged to be involved in professional organisations representing the local government streams where there have been clear and demonstrated benefits to the Council of such membership.

Attendance at meetings or conferences will be at the discretion of management, subject to:

- (i) The attendee demonstrating that measurable objectives and advantages to the organisation will be achieved.
- (ii) The attendee providing a detailed written report on the outcome of the meeting/conference against the objectives identified.

Scope of Policy

This Policy applies to Council workers on an individual request basis.

Implementation of Policy

This policy will become effective upon approval by Council and reviewed every two years.

Risk Management

This Policy aligns itself to Council's Risk Management Policy No. 33 in that it promotes the maintenance of overall set performance standards and the regular review and improvement of Council practices and procedures.

Responsibility

Responsibility for the operation of this policy rests with the General Manager.