

Baptist Churches of South Australia Inc.

Affiliate Membership Policy

1. Preamble

- 1.1. In recognition that God is at work in our world in diverse ways and settings, some of which fall outside what we consider to be a Baptist church, Baptist Churches of SA (BCSA) have created the opportunity for Affiliate Membership within its Constitution.
- 1.2. The objective of this form of Membership is to enable BCSA to appropriately support and encourage such work of God that sits outside, or on the fringes of, our framework as a movement of local Baptist Churches.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. A constituted, functioning and capable church cannot be an Affiliate Member. Such an entity either qualifies as a Baptist Church and hence for Membership, or for other reasons is considered inappropriate to be in a Membership relationship with BCSA.
- 2.2. To be eligible for Affiliate Membership a ministry must meet the requirements of the BCSA Constitution which states:
 - 7.1.2 *A ministry is qualified to be an Affiliate Member if it:*
 - 7.1.2.1 *supports the objects of the Association; and*
 - 7.1.2.2 *agrees to be bound by this Constitution; and*
 - 7.1.2.3 *exists and functions in harmony with Baptist tradition and ethos; and*
 - 7.1.2.4 *has been approved for Affiliate Membership of the Association by the Assembly Board.*

3. Streams

- 3.1. There shall be two streams of Affiliate Membership with benefits and expectations specific to each stream.
- 3.2. The two streams shall be:
 - 3.2.1. Stream **A**: Church plants yet to reach sufficient capacity to be a Member Church and missional initiatives that intend to become church plants
 - 3.2.2. Stream **B**: Ministries that are not and have no intention of becoming churches

4. Benefits

- 4.1. Stream **A** Affiliate Members may access all the benefits available to Member Churches including but not limited to:
 - BCSA Ministry and Administration team support
 - relational connection through the Church Development Facilitator
 - Child Protection training and policies and Child Safe Environments Compliance
 - access to the Australian Baptist Insurance Scheme coverage
 - receipt of regular publications and communications

- 4.2. Stream **B** Affiliate Members will have access to the following services and benefits:
- Relational connection through appropriate members of the Ministry Team
 - Ministry Team consultancy on an agreed fee-for-service basis
 - Child Protection Training and Policies where appropriate
 - access to Australia Baptist insurance Scheme cover with a “non-member levy” as per appropriate BCSA policy
 - receipt of regular publications and communications

5. Expectations

- 5.1. Affiliate Members shall be expected to uphold the ‘good name’ of BCSA and speak well of the Baptist movement
- 5.2. All Affiliate Members shall agree to comply with the BCSA Code of Ethics
- 5.3. Stream **A** and, where appropriate, Stream **B** Affiliate Members shall Comply with BCSA Child Protection Policy and Child Safe Environments Compliance criteria.

6. Fees and Charges

- 6.1. Affiliate Members will not be requested to make an annual contribution to the life and ministry of BCSA, however consideration of contributions by Affiliate Members will be encouraged.
- 6.2. There will be no annual membership fee for Affiliate Members unless so determined by Assembly in accordance with Clause 7.7 “Fees and Subscriptions” of the BCSA Constitution.
- 6.3. Stream **B** Affiliate Members will be required to pay an initial administration fee upon admission to Affiliate Membership status. This fee shall be set from time to time by Assembly Board.

7. Review

- 7.1. It is expected that the suitability of Affiliate Membership status for an Affiliate Member shall be reviewed on a regular basis.
- 7.2. The status of Stream **A** Affiliate Members shall be reviewed annually in consultation with the Church Development Facilitator.
- 7.3. The appropriateness of Affiliate Membership for Stream **B** Affiliate Members shall be reviewed by the Affiliate Member not less than every 2 years.

8. Cessation of Affiliate Membership

- 8.1. An Affiliate Member shall cease to be an Affiliate Member should any of the following occur (refer Clause 7.3 “Cessation of Membership” of BCSA Constitution):
- 8.1.1. the Affiliate Member no longer exists
 - 8.1.2. the Affiliate Member resigns membership
 - 8.1.3. the Affiliate Member is expelled from the Association
 - 8.1.4. the Affiliate Member becomes a Member Church