



New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association

Te Kāhui Kaiwhakatikatika Reo Kōrero o Aotearoa

The New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association Life Membership Policy

Life Membership

Life membership is the highest honour awarded by the Association and confers Full membership or Non-practising membership for a person for the rest of his or her life. It recognises outstanding leadership and committed service to the profession and Association over many years.

Appointment of Life membership is decided by the Executive Council (EC) of the NZSTA at a meeting of the Council. The public minutes of the Executive Council will not record the names of candidates not elected.

There is no limit to the number of Life Members of the Association at any one time. This is to ensure that all deserving members are eligible for the award.

Criteria

Life Membership is given to speech-language therapists with evidence of outstanding service* rendered to the profession of speech-language therapy and significant contribution to the Association** during their years as a practising speech-language therapist. It is also a requirement that the nominated persons have held NZSTA membership for the majority of their practising years as a speech-language therapist (SLT) in New Zealand (a minimum of at least 15 years applies).

* Outstanding service to the profession of speech-language therapy must include two or more of the following:

- Advocacy for the profession with a demonstrable outcome e.g. increasing the public's awareness of SLT; promoting SLT at a national or local governmental level.
- Promotion of services or funding for specific populations locally or nationally
- Significant contribution to the development of speech-language therapy services within New Zealand (*and/or internationally*) e.g. academic education; clinical education; research and publications in the field of human communication or swallowing disorders, and to issues related to SLT; regional/national service development.

**Significant contribution to the Association

Significant contribution to the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association must include one or more of the following e.g. a combination of service on the Executive Council for at least one term with continued contribution to the NZSTA via non-council voluntary positions; prolonged service as an active Area Representative with demonstrable effective changes, development of SLT services nationally, nationally recognised expert in speciality, regular contributor to working parties/committees on behalf of NZSTA

Life Membership Nomination Process

- Candidates for Life membership must be nominated by one member of the New Zealand Speech-language Therapists' Association and seconded by another member of the Association.
- Nominations shall remain **confidential** in case the nomination is unsuccessful. Nominees should not be approached directly for information pertaining to the nomination.
- When nominating a candidate for Life membership, members are required to complete a nomination form, which includes a written submission **clearly demonstrating the candidate's achievement against the criteria of 'outstanding service to the profession' and 'significant contribution to the Association' over many years.**
- Nomination forms are available on the NZTSA website www.speechtherapy.org.nz or by contacting the Executive Officer at admin@speechtherapy.org.nz.
- Completed nominations may be received by membertnetworks@speechtherapy.org.nz or National Office PO Box 302469, North Harbour, Auckland 0751. If the nomination is sent by electronic means, a hard signed copy must also be posted to National Office.
- Nominations received by the Executive Council will be considered in confidence at the next scheduled EC meeting.

Election process

- Nominations will be considered by the Executive Council.
- Following consideration of the submission against the stated criteria, the EC shall decide whether to seek referees.
- If referees are sought, the nominator will be asked to provide the names and contact details of at least two referees.
- Nominations for life membership must be endorsed by a majority vote of the Executive Council.
- If the nomination is successful:
 - the nominee will be asked in writing to accept Life Membership.
 - Once the nominee has accepted, written confirmation signed by the President of the Association will be issued.
 - NZSTA members will be notified of the award winner in an article (written by an appropriate person) in the following edition of the NZSTA magazine, Communication Matters. A list of the Association's Life Members will be included in every edition of Communication Matters.
 - A certificate will be presented to the new Life member at the next AGM

- If the nomination is not successful:
 - the nominator and seconder will be informed of the decision in writing. The EC will not be obliged to divulge the reasons for its decision.
 - No record shall be made in the public minutes of the EC meeting of the names of unsuccessful candidates.

Life Membership Benefits

Life members receive all the services and products of full or non-practising membership (as applicable) at no cost. They also have full voting rights. This includes free NZSTA membership but does not extend to free registration at NZSTA professional development events

Nomination Form for Life Membership of the New Zealand Speech Language Therapists' Association (NZSTA)			
Nominees Name (CAPITALS)		<i>Membership number</i> <i>(office use only)</i>	
Nominator		Membership No.	
Seconder		Membership No.	
Date of nomination			
Evidence of Outstanding Service <i>(please give as much detail as possible)</i>			
Evidence of support of the NZSTA <i>(please give as much detail as possible)</i>			
Additional comments <i>(please give as much detail as possible)</i>			

<i>For Executive Council use only</i>				
Nomination received (<i>date</i>)				
Years of membership		Criteria met		
Referees (if applicable)				
Vote count	For		Against	
Application supported	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Nominee accepts LM	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Written confirmation by President made		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Certificate presented at next AGM		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Date	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominated member to write article about new life member for the next edition of Communication Matters			Date:	Name: