

The Membership Committee

Terms of Reference

The Membership Committee makes recommendations to the Board so that the Board may consider whom to invite to become a Member (Fellow) of the Academy.

By clause 6.1 of the Academy's Constitution, the number of Members is unlimited, but it was anticipated that the number of Members would not normally exceed 400. As at June 2020, there are some 370 Fellows, including Life Fellows and Overseas Fellows.

The Membership Committee does its work by assessing nominations against eligibility for membership: the criterion is that the person is of exceptional distinction in the discipline of law and demonstrably committed to the objects of the Academy.

It is desirable to maintain a balance (this does not imply equality) in the numbers of Fellows across the three main parts of the legal community: academia, the practising profession (including private and public sector lawyers), and the judiciary.

Nominations are essential and it is very important for a nomination to be as comprehensive as possible.

It is a role of the Membership Committee to make Fellows aware of what the Committee looks for in the content of nominations.

A prospective Member must be nominated for membership by a Member; invited by the Directors to become a Member; accept that invitation; and pay his or her subscription (if payable). Ideally a nomination also has a seconder as well as a proposer.

The fact of nomination is not to be disclosed to the person nominated before a decision is made by the Board so as to avoid embarrassment in the case of an unsuccessful nomination.

The Membership Committee meets approximately four times a year. There are nine members of the Membership Committee, the present members being:

- The Hon Alan Robertson SC (Chair)
- Emeritus Professor David Barker AM
- The Hon Justice Anthony Besanko
- Professor Erika Techera
- The Hon Justice John G Digby
- Emeritus Professor Paul Fairall
- Mr Glenn Ferguson AM
- The Hon Kevin Lindgren AM QC
- The Hon Marcia Neave AO

The Academy aims to have representation on the Membership Committee of each of the States and Territories.