

# Canberra Dance Theatre

## Life Membership Policy



### Overview

1. Honorary life membership is the highest recognition that can be awarded by Canberra Dance Theatre (CDT), in acknowledgement of an exceptional contribution to CDT as an organisation, and its dance community.
2. In the CDT Constitution under Part 1.2 Membership, Section 4.3 states:  
*Life membership of CDT may be conferred on individuals with a history of outstanding service to CDT and the Canberra dance community in general. Life membership will be conferred by a resolution of the Board.*
3. It is awarded to individuals who have made an exceptional and outstanding contribution to CDT and its dance community. That contribution should be exceptional whether in duration, voluntary time given, or the significant and measurable benefit generated by the individual. It should not be given lightly or to people who have simply done what would be expected of them given the role they held.
4. Life membership is essentially a decision of the Board. However, that decision will be guided by:
  - (a) consideration of criteria, and
  - (b) a nomination process.

### Criteria

5. There are a number of criteria that the Board will consider in thinking about whether an individual has made an exceptional contribution. This consideration will be made in respect of each candidate individually, and in relation to their unique contribution.
6. All of the following criteria will be considered and balanced by the Board:
  - (a) Duration of service: while duration is not sufficient in itself to make a contribution exceptional, it may be important taken together with other factors.
  - (b) Going above and beyond: whether in paid or voluntary roles. Has the individual expended significant personal commitment and energy beyond that of others, to contribute to CDT goals, whether by:
    - mounting specific events;
    - creating dance works;
    - contributing to good governance and/or financial management;
    - undertaking facility management or coordination of volunteers;
    - raising funds or grant writing;
    - promotion and marketing; or
    - other activities that raise the profile and reputation of CDT locally, nationally or internationally.
  - (c) Impact: has the contribution made by the individual had a significant and positive impact for the CDT as an organisation and/or members of the CDT?

- (d) Leadership: is the individual recognised as a leader and role model who enhances the reputation of CDT in the dance community?

### **Process**

7. Two or more members of CDT must nominate the individual, providing to the Board a signed letter including a statement of the individual's claims against the above criteria. These nominating members may or may not be Board members.
8. Decisions to award life membership are decisions of the Board, which are governed by the usual practices relating to decision-making and conflicts of interest.

### **Benefits of Life Membership**

9. Life membership is above all the recognition of an individual by the CDT Board and CDT dance community. It is an honour.
10. By nature, life membership also means that the honoured person will not pay to be a member of CDT but will be a member for life.
11. As an ongoing member, for as long as they wish to do so, the life member will also:
  - remain enrolled in the list of CDT members;
  - receive CDT member publications;
  - receive information about events; and
  - retain the right to participate in member discussions, vote in Annual General Meetings and nominate for Board positions.
12. New life members awarded under this policy will not have access to free classes. Existing life members, granted life membership prior to January 2025, will continue to have free access to ordinary CDT classes, as was the practice when their life membership was awarded. Consistent with previous practice this does not include special events, choreographic workshops, rehearsals or classes run by non-CDT hirers of the CDT studio. The CDT Board and dance community highly values these existing life members and their ongoing relationship and contribution to CDT.

### **Announcement and Recognition**

13. Announcement of a Board decision to grant life membership could include any or all of the following:
  - (a) being added to the list of Life Members on the CDT website
  - (b) an announcement and a supporting article in the CDT Newsletter
  - (c) an announcement and presentation at an AGM or other member event
  - (d) awarding of an official certificate.

### **Withdrawal of Life Membership**

14. The CDT Constitution contains provisions for the discipline or expulsion of members from the Association, including processes to be followed and rights of appeal (sections 7.1 to 8.4). It is not necessary to repeat those provisions in this policy.
15. If the Board decides to expel a life member, then that person's name must be removed from the list of life members on the CDT website.