

PANZA membership categories – Proposal for 2026 AGM

Purpose:

This note outlines the rationale for, and proposed changes to the PANZA membership categories

Background:

At the PANZA AGM in June 2025, the Committee proposed changes to PANZA membership categories. Following discussion in the meeting, the Committee undertook to do further work on the issue before returning to PANZA membership for its approval. This note reflects that further work.

PANZA Society Rules state: 13.2: “There shall be 3 categories of membership. These will be clinical (full) members, associate members and trainee members....”. However, over time, additional categories have been added, for example:

- *Non-clinical members* – leading to some discrepancies and confusion as to distinction from associate members (especially retirees and overseas members)
- *Honorary members (Life and Fellow)*

There are currently no trainee members and it has been some time since a recognised clinical training has been run in NZ. While there is currently no training body in New Zealand currently recognised for *clinical* training, there may be in future.

While consensus is typically sought in association-wide decisions, occasionally voting has been relied on. Voting rights are outlined in our rules (Full Clinical – 4 votes, Associate – 2 votes, Trainee – 1 vote), and it is implied that Non-Clinical members do not currently have voting rights.

Currently, only Full Clinical members are eligible to be members of the Committee.

Proposal:

This proposal aims to:

- Rationalise the number of membership categories
- Clarify entry criteria, voting rights and eligibility for standing on the Committee
- Update our Rules to reflect practice with regards to membership categories.

It also seeks to reflect the changing trajectory of our membership, with more existing clinicians moving towards retirement, and newer members being non-clinical in light of limited training currently available in NZ.

We propose to move to the following categories of membership:

Membership category	Eligibility	Voting rights	Eligible for Committee?	Fee	Comment
Clinical	People who have graduated clinical training at a PANZA recognised training programme, who are practicing counsellors or psychotherapists.	2 votes per person	Yes	Full	Unchanged from previous

Associate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have graduated a PANZA recognised psychosynthesis 'personal integration' year such as that offered by the Institute of Psychosynthesis NZ, (IPNZ) and Psychosynthesis South Pacific (PSP). • Trained clinicians who are not currently practicing (retirees, people taking a break). • People in training with a recognised clinical training programme. 	1 vote per person	No	Reduced	Incorporates previous "trainee" and associate membership categories
Honorary	Awarded by PANZA Committee to members with distinguished service (eg Life or Fellow members)	2 votes per person	Yes	Nil	Unchanged, but to be reflected in Rules

For many members, there will be no change to their membership category for the 2026/27 membership year, should this proposal be agreed. Where there will be a change, we will contact those members regarding the transition for them and any implications.

Recommendation:

- Approve this proposal; and
- Authorise the Committee to make consequential changes in the Society Rules as soon as possible in line with this proposal; and
- Note the new membership categories be effective immediately, and we will contact those members regarding the transition for them and any implications.