

Factsheet – Unison membership

What is a member?

Unison's company structure is based on members. Members in a not-for-profit company are similar to shareholders in a for-profit company. They have certain rights – they appoint directors to the company's board and have special access to information that non-members do not have, such as meeting minutes.

Why would I become a member?

Members have three main rights:

1. Members can vote on resolutions at Unison's annual general meetings.
2. Members can vote on resolutions to appoint Unison's board of directors.
3. Members have access to Unison's financial statements and minutes of annual general meetings of Unison Housing Ltd.

How is Unison membership different to membership of Yarra Community Housing?

When it formed earlier this year, Unison adopted a slightly different company structure to Yarra Community Housing (YCH). Previously, YCH had two classes of members: organisational members, who were appointed by the partner organisations that established YCH; and general members, who were individuals with an interest in YCH, such as tenants.

Now, Unison has just one class of members, general members.

If I was a member of YCH, do I have to re-apply to become a member of Unison?

Everyone who was a member of YCH has automatically been brought over as a member of Unison.

What do I have to do if I become a member?

The obligations on members of Unison are small – they are invited to attend Unison's general meetings. There is usually one meeting a year, the Annual General Meeting, and members can choose not to attend.

How much does membership cost?

Membership is free.

How do I become a member?

To become a member you will need to complete a membership application form. Forms can be downloaded from unison.org.au, you can pick a form up from your nearest Unison office or contact Nina on 03 9349 0257.