

Amaze Membership Program Changes

Frequently Asked Questions – August 2017

As of 1 July 2017, Amaze is introducing a new Future Shaper Supporter Program to replace our existing Membership Program.

1 in 100 people in Victoria are on the autism spectrum and 52% of people in a recent survey confirmed they had a direct personal connection with autism through a family member, friend or colleague.

Autism isn't rare or unusual. It's part of the world: part of our world.

We need and want to do more to ensure that people on the spectrum are not excluded from participating in a world full of understanding and possibility.

We want to ensure that the voice of the autism community, your voice continues to be heard and continues to inform the work that we do.

Why are we reshaping our existing Membership Program?

An Amaze Member Survey in late 2016 confirmed that the majority of existing Members would prefer to access information online with increased currency and frequency of information.

Many more people now accessing information online which is a significant shift from past reliance on hard copy publications such as magazines and newspapers.

We want to increase the reach of our autism information to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible and in the most cost-effective way possible at all times.

What will be changing?

- Amaze will no longer utilise a tiered Membership model.
- Voting Membership is still available for a flat fee of \$10.00 per annum for individuals interested in participating in the governance of Amaze, including our AGM.
- Any individual or organisation from hereon making a financial donation to Amaze will be recognized as an Amaze Future Shaper.
- Donations can be made to Amaze at any time throughout the year and can be a one off gift or as a regular donation.
- Our Future Shaper Supporter Program financial donations will now be fully-tax deductible.
- Amaze Future Shapers will also be invited to make financial donations for our specific fundraising appeals in November/December and May/June. There is no obligation for Amaze Future Shapers to donate further at these times.
- Amaze will not be producing The Spectrum hard copy magazine three times per year.



- All new autism content, research interviews and resources will be promoted and made available via our eSpectrum fortnightly online newsletter, our Amaze Future Shaper Supporter updates and via our website.
- Amaze will continue to promote discounts and offers for the wider autistic community to events or activities of interest, however this will occur now via eSpectrum and/or our Future Shapers program communications.
- A final hard copy issue of The Spectrum Magazine is being distributed to current Members in late August 2017.

What does this mean if I am a current Student, Individual, Family Member?

All existing Amaze Members, will automatically be acknowledged as an Amaze Founding Future Shaper and will retain their Amaze Voting Rights until the completion of their existing Membership term

From hereon, you will receive more regular program updates on our work including regular online updates and two hard copy Supporter newsletters in November and May each year.

Individuals who wish to retain and exercise their voting rights in accordance with the governance model of Amaze beyond their current membership term, will be able to do so through the payment of a separate annual fee of \$10.00 annually which is not tax-deductible. Voting Membership renewal notices will continue to be sent in accordance with your existing Membership renewal dates.

We hope that our current Members will be supportive of this change and will be happy to be part of our new Future Shapers program.

For students, individuals and families who renewed their Membership with Amaze or joined the Amaze Membership Program from 1 December 2016 will be eligible for a partial refund of their 2017 Membership fee if they do not wish to be part of the Amaze Future Shapers Supporter Program.

You can contact our Fundraising Coordinator on 03 9657 1673 or membership@amaze.org.au if you have specific questions about this change or if you would like to request a partial refund.

What does this mean if I am a current Professional, Educational or support Group Member?

Our Capacity Building staff will make contact with you in September by phone to discuss the status of your Membership and your specific interests/requirements.

For existing Professional, Educational Members or Support Group Members, who renewed their Membership with Amaze or joined the Amaze Membership Program from 1 December 2016 will be eligible for a refund of their 2017 Membership fee if they do not wish to be part of the Amaze Future Shapers Supporter Program.

You can contact our Fundraising Coordinator on 03 9657 1673 or membership@amaze.org.au if you have specific questions about this change or if you would like to request a partial refund.



What do I have to do from here?

From hereon, you will receive Future Shaper Supporter updates and information as well as our fortnightly eSpectrum online newsletters.

You do not need to take any action until you receive your invitation to renew your voting Membership separately for \$10.00 per annum in line with your existing Membership expiry date or you receive an Amaze Future Shaper Supporter invitation via email to make a financial donation to support the work of Amaze at our designated appeal times.

For people with an interest to be part of our governance processes and AGM, we welcome your continued involvement with Amaze as a Voting Member.

You can also opt out of our eSpectrum and/or our Amaze Future Shaper Supporter updates if you would prefer not to receive this information at any time.

You can also make a financial donation to Amaze at any time throughout the year via our website www.amaze.org.au/donate

Thank You

Thank you for your past support and Membership with Amaze. As a valued historic Member of Amaze, you have been an essential and important part of our journey.

Amaze is committed to shaping a future for autistic people that our community wants, and that the world needs.

We hope you will continue to join us on this journey.

Fiona Sharkie
Chief Executive Officer

