



## PROCESS FOR NEW MEMBERS

2020

Rural Australians for Refugees Inc is an incorporated national organization, comprised of members from RAR groups across Australia. New members are always welcome. This sheet gives information for groups interested in becoming a member.

1. The group must be in a rural or regional location.
2. The group must be a community group (that is, at least two people involved, not just an individual.).
3. The group supports the purposes of RAR (which from our Rules are):

The purposes of the association are to:

- Support RAR members action to achieve positive change in asylum and refugee policies
- Support RAR members' and associates' activities in providing material and social assistance to refugees and people seeking asylum
- Advocate humane and constructive changes to Australia's refugee and immigration policies
- Raise public awareness about issues involving asylum

4. The group endorses RAR's 10 Point Plan.  
<https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/whoweare/> This broadly sets our priorities for action. More immediate campaign priorities are presented in our weekly-fortnightly RAR Update, as well as occasional emails/letters. But the member groups still decide what campaigns and issues to take up.
5. Each group is autonomous. This means we have no requirements that member groups have meetings or conduct any specific activities. (Some are informal: for example, they get together around a stall once a month. Others are more structured). National Committee members will connect with each group, to keep contact going between the member groups and the RAR National Committee.
6. The group agrees to abide by the Code of Conduct, which is on our website: <https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/RAR-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>. While this sets the limits of advocacy/ activism, it is primarily about promoting good conduct.
7. The group completes an application form, which is on our website: <https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-RAR-Membership-Form-.pdf>. On this application form, we ask you to nominate two contact people and state if these details are available to:
  - Other RAR groups
  - Refugees or people seeking asylum seeking support
  - Media enquiries.

8. RAR National currently asks groups to make a voluntary annual contribution, where they are able to do so. This is to cover the administration and campaigning costs involved in running an all-volunteer group.
9. RAR National Committee reviews applications for membership and approves these at their regular meetings.
10. RAR National provides insurance cover for public liability for unincorporated groups, at a moderate cost. Groups that are incorporated need to organize their own insurance.
11. Group members are able to nominate their members to stand for, and vote in, election to the National Committee annually. We also have a number of sub-committees which we encourage member groups to be part of. Currently these are:
  - Campaign
  - Detention
  - Human Rights
  - Communications
  - Homestay.
12. Communications:
  - we list the member groups on our website <https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/> We encourage all groups to have a description of their group, and their activities on this list, and to keep it up to date, as it is regularly used by visitors to the website. Some groups list an email and/or phone contact. Some groups prefer to use the [rar.australia@gmail.com](mailto:rar.australia@gmail.com) address. In this situations, we need to be sure that the contact details we pass on are up to date, and approved by you to pass on (see #7 above).
  - We encourage member groups to have a standard email address such as [rar.locality@gmail.com](mailto:rar.locality@gmail.com). This is not a requirement, but a suggestion. It is intended to protect the privacy of individual members and can be transferred to different people as convenor and secretary roles change.
  - Our primary means of communicating with member groups is through the **Updates**, which are sent to the central contact person(s)/ convenor of each member group around twice a month. We encourage the group convenor to circulate these Updates to those on their membership list.
13. RAR holds a National Conference every two years. This is hosted by one of our members. The next Conference will be in 2021 (deferred from 2020). This is a major opportunity for face-to-face contact with other members, sharing skills and ideas, and hearing directly from people with lived experience and advocates.
14. Resources:
  - The Updates, where we share information about campaigns, activities, what groups are doing etc
  - The website
  - On occasions, speaking tours and similar, usually related to specific campaigns.

If you would like more information about joining RAR or forming a RAR group, please contact the Secretary on [rar.australia@gmail.com](mailto:rar.australia@gmail.com)