

Dear Member

Re: Important update about Epilepsy New Zealand membership

Thank you for your ongoing support of Epilepsy New Zealand (ENZ). We're writing to share an important update about membership at a particularly significant time for our organisation.

This year marks 70 years of supporting New Zealanders living with epilepsy. As we reflect on seven decades of advocacy, education and support – and look ahead to the future – building and maintaining a strong, sustainable membership base is more important than ever.

Important change to membership subscriptions

Following our 2025 AGM, members adopted an updated Constitution to meet the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. As part of this process, our membership arrangements were also updated.

From 1 April, all members (other than Life Members) will be required to pay an annual subscription of \$12.00.

Previously, some client members and their whānau were not required to pay a subscription. Under the updated structure, all members – except Life Members – are now asked to contribute to an annual subscription. This ensures fairness, transparency, and helps to support the financial sustainability of the organisation. The subscription has been increased to \$12 to cover the GST component which had previously been absorbed.

Why membership matters

Membership plays a vital role in strengthening our voice. It enables us to confidently engage with decision-makers, advocate for meaningful change, and continue improving quality of life for people living with epilepsy across Aotearoa – now and into the future.

Membership subscription

- The annual subscription is **\$12.00 (including GST)**.
- Membership runs from **1 April to 31 March** each year.
- Members who join or pay on or after **1 January** will have their membership carried through to the following year.
- Voting rights apply once the subscription and any applicable fees are fully paid by **31 July**.
- Members experiencing financial hardship may apply for a confidential subscription waiver or reduction.

Membership categories

Under the updated Constitution, the following categories apply:

- **Individual Members** – Open to any individual. Full voting rights and counted toward quorum.
- **Corporate Members** – For organisations, with one nominated voting representative. Full voting rights and counted toward quorum.
- **Unincorporated Group Members** – For groups that nominate an individual to vote on their behalf. Full voting rights and counted toward quorum.
- **Life Members** – By nomination only, recognising exceptional service. No annual subscription and full voting rights.
- **Employee Members** – For paid employees of the Association. May attend General Meetings but do not have voting or speaking rights and are not counted toward quorum.

Membership administration

- New membership applications will be granted upon Board approval, and payment of the subscription and any applicable fees.
- An official register of Members is maintained, and members are responsible for keeping their contact details up to date.
- Most member communications will be shared via email or through our website.
- Membership may end if a resignation is received or if the subscription remains unpaid after **31 July**.

Important payment information

From **1 April**, anyone wishing to remain a member of Epilepsy New Zealand will need to renew their membership by paying the annual subscription.

As an existing or past member:

- A membership email will be sent to you on **1 April** with a personalised link to renew.
- If you are not using the link provided in that email, please use your membership number as your payment reference.

If you do not wish to be considered for membership, please email national@epilepsy.org.nz to let us know and we will remove you from the membership list.

You can read the full Constitution here: [Epilepsy Association of New Zealand Inc CONSTITUTION](#)

Thank you again for your support. Whether you are a current member or a past member, your involvement makes a real difference. As we celebrate 70 years, we are grateful to have you as part of our journey – past, present and future.

Ngā mihi,



Tracy Tierney
Chief Executive
EPILEPSY NEW ZEALAND