



## **AMA Victoria Associate Membership**

### **Question and Answers**

#### **1. What is an AMA Victoria Associate Membership?**

An AMA Victoria Associate membership provides a lower-cost membership option for doctors who solely wish to access benefits and services offered and administered by AMA Victoria.

Unlike an 'Ordinary membership' an Associate membership does not receive benefits or services from Federal AMA. Nor does this type of membership financially support AMA Federal and its advocacy to the Federal Government. As a result, an AMA Victoria Associate member cannot access support from AMA Federal or expect to directly influence advocacy efforts at a national level.

Any member who wishes to support AMA Federal in its advocacy efforts to the Federal Government and other federal bodies is strongly encouraged to choose an 'Ordinary' membership in order to support the work of AMA Federal.

#### **2. What is an 'Ordinary' membership?**

'Ordinary' AMA members benefit from the full suite of services and benefits delivered by both AMA Victoria and AMA Federal.

#### **3. What benefits and services does an AMA Victoria Associate Member receive?**

Benefits provided by AMA Victoria include:

- workplace relations and industrial relations support
- mediation
- legal assistance
- advocacy to the State Government
- communications and information from AMA Victoria such as the weekly 'Check Up' and Vicdoc magazine
- state-based events
- discounts and benefits from AMA Victoria partners such as:
  - Complimentary accounting & taxation consultations with the [Bongiorno Group](#) e.g., a 3 hour meeting discussing structure guidelines for private practice
  - Complimentary legal advice from [Kennedys](#) with a one-hour phone consultation on a referred issue as well as exclusive rates if members choose to engage further
  - 10% lifetime discount from [NobleOak](#) on life cover

- As well as Corporate Programmes for new car purchases, discounts on Samsung electronics, debt recovery services, solar energy installations, premium wine, entertainment streaming and [much more](#).
- professional development, careers and coaching services
- wellbeing advice and support
- participation in Victorian-based subdivisions
- the opportunity to participate on AMA Victoria's State Council
- voting rights specific to the governance of AMA Victoria only

#### **4. What benefits and services does an 'Ordinary' member' (a Joint Federal and State AMA member) receive?**

In addition to the benefits of AMA Victoria Associate membership, an 'Ordinary' or joint member also receives the benefits and rights of membership of Federal AMA (the Australian Medical Association).

The [Australian Medical Association](#) is the national voice of doctors. A national peak professional body run by and for doctors, the AMA is the only organisation working at national and state levels to promote and protect the professional interests of doctors and the healthcare needs of patients.

The AMA's [Vision for Australia's Health Care](#) is built on strengthening General Practice, Public Hospitals, Private Health, Health Equity and a strengthened health care system for the future.

'Ordinary' AMA members benefit from both national and state membership. Nationally, the Federal AMA works with the Federal Government to get more from Medicare, private health insurance, public hospital funding, aged care, and medical registration and training.

'Ordinary' AMA members can seek election to AMA's [Federal Council](#) or Federal AMA [Policy Committees](#). The Federal Council is represented by the Federal AMA President Dr Omar Khorshid, who is recognised as a leading national voice for the medical profession.

In the last twelve months, in addition to [responding to COVID-19 public health](#) needs the Federal AMA has:

- secured [MBS funding for telehealth](#),
- led a [campaign against managed](#) care in private health,
- proposed [new funding arrangements to halt the public hospital crisis](#),
- lobbied to secure the no fault [COVID-19 vaccine indemnity scheme](#), and
- prevented debts being imposed through the [Bonded Medical Placement Program](#).

The Federal AMA also represents doctors in matters involving the Australian Medical Council, the Medical Board of Australia, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and the Professional Services Review.

Catering to different needs of different doctors, explore the Federal AMA's benefits for:

- [Doctors in Training](#)
- [General Practitioners](#)
- [Rural Doctors](#)
- [Private Specialists](#)
- [Public Hospital Doctors](#)
- [Medical Students](#)

Included in 'Ordinary' members benefits are:

- Subscription to the [Medical Journal of Australia](#)
- Subscription to [MJA Insights](#)
- Subscription to the [List of Medical Services and Fees](#)
- Subscription to [AMA CPD Tracker](#)
- Subscription to [Medical Professional Development Learning Modules](#)
- Access to [MJA Jobs Board](#)
- Access to a range of discounts on airline lounge memberships and car hire.

The Federal AMA also operates [Drs4Drs](#) which supports a range of doctor focused health services, including twenty-four-hour emergency mental health care. The services of [Drs4Drs](#) are available free to any doctor or medical student.

#### **5. How much is an AMA Victoria Associate membership fee compared with an 'Ordinary' membership price?**

For members opting for an AMA Victoria Associate membership, the fee reduction is in the order of 40 per cent compared with a relevant 'Ordinary' membership price.

#### **6. How can AMA Victoria afford to provide such a significant discount?**

Usually, when a doctor becomes a member of AMA Victoria, around half of the membership fees are immediately transferred to AMA Federal. This money pays for the services and benefits offered by AMA Federal and the advocacy and policy work undertaken at a federal level.

If members now choose to take out an AMA Victoria Associate membership, this 'moiety' will not be paid.

Whilst most of the benefit of the reduction is retained by the member through substantially decreased member fees, it also allows for a small increase in revenue to AMA Victoria to pay for the services that these particular members value and require.

This model also has the potential advantage of increased membership growth as it caters for different levels of income derived by different medical professionals.

## **7. Why is this being introduced?**

This model provides members and potential members with more choice and greater pricing transparency.

## **8. Has this type of membership been offered before?**

This type of membership was introduced to a small segment of members in 2019, including part-time doctors-in-training, GP Registrars and members on parental leave. A similar model has also been available to overseas trained doctors prior to 2019.

The AMA Victoria Board has decided that it is appropriate to extend this membership option to all Victorian members on a strictly 'opt-in' basis.

## **9. Will this model have an impact on AMA Federal's revenue level?**

This is a strictly opt-in model, but all members should note that if they choose an AMA Victoria Associate membership, AMA Federal's revenue will be reduced.

It is very important that all members consider the value they place on the services provided by both bodies before making a decision about which type of membership best suits their needs.

## **10. I don't want an AMAV Associate Membership or joint membership. I want to be a member of AMA Federal only. Is this possible?**

This type of 'Federal only' membership is currently unavailable.

## **11. Can I change my mind?**

You can change your mind at any time.

## **12. If I opt to be an AMA Victoria Associate member, will you still make representations on my behalf to national bodies?**

While AMA Victoria does its best to advocate on behalf of all members, it is important to note that there is no federal policy expertise within the AMA Victoria Secretariat. AMA Victoria's advocacy efforts are predominantly state-based. If your advocacy area of interest is federal, you are encouraged to take out an 'Ordinary' membership that supports the work of AMA Federal.