



MEAA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

In the spirit of reconciliation MEAA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Am I eligible to join?

Any Australian resident who works in an industry that is covered by MEAA's four sections is eligible to join.

This includes the following but is not limited to;

Media section – Journalists, reporters, editors, sub-editors, communications professionals, publishers, and freelancers.

Entertainment, Crew and Sport (ECS) – Theatre and screen creatives, technicians and crew, front-of-house, entertainment venue and event workers.

Equity – Actors, extras, dancers, variety performers, opera principals and chorus singers, graded stunt professionals.

Musicians – Freelance musicians, symphony and theatrical orchestra musicians.

Full details on membership eligibility can be found in MEAA's Registered Rules, which are available to download via meaa.org.

How much does MEAA membership cost?

Membership fees are based on how much you are earning from the industry. Each section structures their fees individually. To find out how much membership will cost you or to find out if you are paying the right amount, please call **MEAA Member Central** on 1300 65 65 13 or email members@meaa.org.

What is the minimum term I can be a member?

The minimum membership term is three months.

How do I pay my membership fees?

The best way to pay your membership fees is via periodic deduction from a card or bank account on a weekly, fortnightly, 4-weekly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly basis. You provide us with your details and we deduct the amount from your account on the frequency you have chosen.

Fee payment can also be organised via invoice by arrangement on a six monthly basis and some employers offer payroll deductions.

Can I get a refund of my membership fees?

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Members need to advise us at least two weeks ahead of changes to their circumstances in writing to members@meaa.org or call **MEAA Member Central** on 1300 65 65 13.

However, members can access a refund for any fees charged within the previous 14 days.

Payments will cease from the notification date. If members have notified us within this period, and the changes have not been actioned, resulting in an overpayment of fees, MEAA will refund the overpayment amount.

Refunds are credited electronically to your bank account or credit card. If we do not have any bank details on file, details will need to be provided. Members who pay by Payroll deduction will need to contact their employer's payroll department.

I'm about to go on parental leave, what happens to my membership?

Members who have been financial with MEAA for more than 12 months, and will be the primary care giver, are entitled to free membership for up to 12 months or when they go back to work, whichever is sooner. Information regarding the leave needs to be supplied in writing to MEAA via email and with at least two weeks' notice.

Does my membership include insurance?

All financial MEAA members receive Journey Protection Insurance as part of their membership. This covers you if you are injured or involved in an accident on the way to or from work. For more details, visit meaa.org.

MEAA also negotiates public liability and professional indemnity insurance policies for our members where there is a large collective need. We currently have policies for members working in the following areas:

Freelance Pro – Journalists, photographers, public relations officers, copywriters, editors.

Screen Technicians (STAA) – Screen technicians in film and TV.

Musicians – All musicians and music educators.

MEAA does not have any work cover insurance as part of our policies.

How do I keep my details up to date?

The quickest and easiest way to update your details is via our online portal at meaa.org. Once signed in head to the ABOUT ME page. Here you can update your contact and payment details. You can also create an online portfolio for the public or just members to see. If you have issues logging in or activating your online account call **MEAA Member Central** on 1300 65 65 13 or email members@meaa.org.

Will I be sent a membership card?

All members will be sent a digital membership card, which can be stored in your phone's wallet app. If updates and notifications are turned on, the card will stay up



to date and we can alert you if there has been an issue with your membership details, like a payment declining.

Media section members can also use their membership card as a press pass. To get your photo on your card forward a passport style photo to members@meaa.org. The preferred format is jpeg, 180 pixels in a square. If your photo is too large, we can crop it and format it for you.

Any members who require a plastic card can opt in via their online account on meaa.org.

If at any time, you require a replacement plastic card, please email your request to members@meaa.org.

Can I apply for an International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Press Card?

All financial members of the Media section are eligible to apply for an IFJ Press Card. For the application form and all the details visit meaa.org.

Are union fees tax deductible?

Yes, union membership fees are classed as a work related expense and as such are claimable on your tax return.

At the end of each financial year MEAA will organise a tax statement for members who pay via periodic deduction and invoice. This is sent via email to the address listed on your membership.

If you pay your membership fees by payroll deduction your fees are reported to you by your employer.

What are Residuals?

Residuals are payments negotiated by Equity and paid to performers (Performer, Stunt Performer or Bit Players) for the showing of a motion picture or television program in which they performed. Residuals are sometime referred to as “royalties”, “repeats” or “second usage fees”.

Fees calculated on the total residual:

5% for financial membership plus any outstanding union dues for unfinancial members.

15% plus GST for suspended, resigned and terminated members plus any outstanding union dues.

15% plus GST for non-members of the union.

The frequency of Residuals payments is not guaranteed and payments depend on license agreements, the project’s commercial worth and when and how often the product airs.

For more information on Residuals please email residuals@meaa.org.

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How do I end my MEAA membership?

MEAA membership is ongoing until we hear from you in writing and as such renews automatically each financial year. You can email members@meaa.org to resign your membership.

If you would like to temporarily pause your membership due to not working or going overseas, you can call **MEAA Member Central** 1300 65 65 13 to organise a suspension.

I'm in financial difficulty, what should I do?

If you are ever facing financial difficulty, please call **MEAA Member Central** on 1300 65 65 13 to discuss your fee level or alternative payment options. We will do what we can to ensure your membership is ongoing and sustainable.

Does MEAA offer a student membership?

If you are studying full time in an industry covered by MEAA and you are not working you are eligible for the student membership. Each year, you will be asked to assess whether the student membership is still right for you and if it is not, what the level of your membership should be.

I'm going for my Stunt Grading, how do I pay my fee?

If you are not currently a member of MEAA, please call **MEAA Member Central** on 1300 65 65 13 to pay your stunt grading fee, which is \$235. Once graded by the National Stunt Committee, the \$235 will be put towards the first set of fees you are billed. For further information on the Stunt Grading Procedure, visit meaa.org.

I have an issue at work, what should I do?

Firstly, it is best to put all the details in an email to our Industrial Team on aid@meaa.org. Our team of professional Industrial Officers will assess the information provided and come back to you with information and advice specific to your issue.

All information is sent to MEAA in the strictest confidence and will not be shared with your employer. As your union, we are here to deal with these issues and provide advice in your best interests.

My work issue arose before I joined. What should I do?

Any pre-existing issue needs the approval from the Director, Industrial before advice can be given. In some cases, MEAA will require back fees of 6 months to provide assistance. Pre-existing issue advice is at the discretion of the Director.

Please email through the details to aid@meaa.org and your request for assistance will be assessed.