

Membership information and application form



The Australian Sonographers Association is the peak body and leading voice for sonographers.

Our core objectives are to:

- provide continuing education for sonographers
- promote best practice in sonography
- advocate members' interests and raise the profile of the profession
- provide a forum for communication
- provide member services and benefits.

The Australian Sonographers Association (ASA) was formed in 1992 in response to the desire of sonographers across Australia for an organisation which had as its charter, to exclusively consider the issues confronting and challenging sonographers in the modern environment. Our vision is to advocate on behalf of all sonographers and continue to pursue high standards within the practice of medical sonography.

Membership benefits

When you join the ASA you join over 3,000 members who are committed to raising the profile of the profession through promoting best practice, contributing to policy development and upholding professional standards through continuing professional development.

Education and events

Only ASA members have access to our comprehensive events program at discounted member prices. The ASA education and events calendar is designed by members for members and is tailored specifically to meet the unique challenges of diagnostic medical sonographers.

Professional certification

Only members of the ASA are eligible to use the designation of ASA Certified Sonographer or ASA Certified Student Sonographer. As the peak body and leading voice for sonographers displaying your member logo serves as a powerful statement to peers, employers, regulators and patients about your commitment to clinical and professional excellence.

Professional development program – PD-asa

Available exclusively to members of ASA, PD-**asa** is the only professional development program that can automatically log your CPD points for all ASA activities. Save time, receive notifications on key dates, reminders and deadlines, track your points online and reduce audit double ups when you nominate PD-**asa** as your default CPD program.

Advocacy and representation

The ASA supports greater recognition of sonography as a profession and the vital role that the sonographer plays in delivering ultrasound services. As a representative on the Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry (ASAR), the ASA is the recognised voice in representing members' interests to the profession, government and academia on the standard and quality of sonography being performed.

Special offers on general insurance

Enjoy access to discounted premiums and special deals on all your general insurances through Gamman Insurance and CGU.

Information and resources

As a member of ASA, you can be kept informed on all issues affecting sonography. Only ASA Members have access to all web-based services such as calendar of events, news, employment, **soundeffects** articles, CPD tests and discussion forums as well as information on all the issues affecting sonographers through *e-mode*, Advocacy Alert and quarterly publication **soundeffects**.

Professional recognition

ASA Awards of Excellence – Honours outstanding achievement in sonography and offers a unique opportunity to celebrate our most outstanding sonographers.

ASA Scholarships, grants and prizes – The ASA has a strong commitment to research within the field of sonography. As part of our commitment to promoting best practice and upholding professional standards, the ASA offer a range of scholarships, grants and prizes to support ASA members.

Professional indemnity, legal benefits and public liability insurance

Sonographers, like any other medical profession, may be exposed to accusations of negligence, by error or omission, or malpractice. This may result in having to defend themselves against a claim which could result in substantial legal costs and expenses.

Hence, in response to concerns from members, insurance cover tailored to sonographers is offered to all Ordinary and Student members.

The purpose of our professional indemnity/malpractice, legal benefits and public liability policy is to provide sonographers with protection and peace of mind when acting in their professional capacity as a sonographer. Cover is also extended to like professions such as radiography, nuclear medicine and nursing as long as your primary profession is sonography.

The ASA strongly recommends all sonographers protect themselves against risks by holding cover independent of the cover held by their employer. Run-off cover is available, provided that the Association's policy remains in force and a level of membership to the ASA is retained. Please contact the ASA National Office for more information.

Professional indemnity and malpractice insurance

Scope of policy

- \$10 million for each and every claim, \$20 million in the aggregate for the insurance period.
- Excess: \$250 each and every claim.
- Underwritten by CGU Professional Risk Insurance, brokered by Gamman Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd.
- Provides cover to bodily injury, mental injury, illness, disease or death of any patient caused by any negligent act, error or omission, committed by the insured in or about the conduct of the insured member's professional duties or good samaritan acts.

Extensions to the policy are:

- Teachers Liability
- Libel and Slander
- Loss of Documents.

An added benefit to the policy is 'Run Off Cover' which will provide cover for any previous incidents, prior to retirement or leaving the profession provided that the Association's policy remains in force and a level of membership to the ASA is retained. Costs and expenses incurred with insurers/underwriters written consent in defence or settlement of any claim which falls within the insurance policy period are covered by the Professional Indemnity Policy, current at the time.

Legal benefits cover

Legal benefits cover (i)

- \$100,000 in the aggregate across all members for the insured period
- Excess \$1,000.

Provides cover towards:

- Representation before registration boards, tribunals and coronial enquiries
- Advanced legal costs for conduct allegedly committed by the member carrying out their professional services.

Legal benefits cover (ii)

- \$100,000 in the aggregate across all members for the insured period
- Excess \$1,000.

Provides cover towards:

- Representation for defence costs for disciplinary hearings into sexual molestation.

Public liability

Scope of policy

- \$20 million in the aggregate across all members for the insured period.

Who is covered?

All financial Ordinary and Student members are eligible for professional indemnity, legal benefits and public liability insurance. As well as covering them in their professional capacity as a sonographer as outlined in the ASA's Code of Professional Conduct, this cover extends to radiography, nursing and like duties.

Geographic coverage is worldwide – jurisdiction is Australia & New Zealand.

It should be noted that the policy is a claims made policy and when a claim is actually reported, it is imperative that the insurance is current and notification is provided before any legal proceedings commence. Further to this, the policy wordings are subject to terms and conditions, which can be further clarified if you contact our office.

Membership application form

Membership is offered in accordance with the Constitution of the Association.

A person eligible to be an Ordinary member is one who:

- has a tertiary qualification and has successfully completed a Diploma of Medical Ultrasonography approved by the Association, or
- has a tertiary qualification and has successfully completed a Graduate Diploma of Medical Ultrasonography approved by the Association, and
- is eligible for accreditation with the Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry for AMS status under categories 1 or 3. Continuation of Ordinary membership is reliant upon accreditation being maintained.

A person is eligible to be a Supporting member if that person has an active interest in the field of diagnostic medical sonography and supports the purposes of the Association. Supporting members would also include those undertaking ultrasound training programs.



ASA membership year covers the period 1 July to 30 June.

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Home Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode _____ Country: _____

Business Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode _____ Country: _____

Please send my correspondence to: Business Address Home Address Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Phone (B/H): _____ (A/H): _____

Fax: _____ Mobile: _____

Work Email: _____ Home Email: _____

Indicate preferred email address for communication from the ASA: work home

Accreditation through Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry:

Approved Please provide AMS No. _____ or ASS No. _____
 Pending Not applied for Not applicable

Sector employed in:

Public Hospital Private Hospital Education/academia Not currently working

What area(s) of sonography do you work in?

Abdominal Breast Cardiac General Gynaecology Musculoskeletal
 Obstetrics Paediatric Small Parts Urology Vascular

What area(s) of sonography are you interested in?

Abdominal Breast Cardiac General Gynaecology Musculoskeletal
 Obstetrics Paediatric Small Parts Urology Vascular

How did you find out about membership:

ASA website Colleague Employer University
 Other _____

Member declarations

DECLARATION IN RESPECT TO THE AUSTRALIAN SONOGRAPHERS ASSOCIATION LTD ('the company'): All new members must sign:

I HEREBY UNDERTAKE to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up while I am a member or within one year after I cease to become a member for:

- Payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company in the event of it being wound up while I am a members or within one year after I cease to become a member
 - The costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
 - Adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves
- such amount as may be required not exceeding twenty dollars (\$20.00).

Signature: _____ Date of application: _____

INSURANCE DECLARATION: All new members requiring insurance must sign:

Has there been, or are you aware of, any circumstance which has already occurred that may give rise to a negligent act, error, omission or malpractice claim being lodged against you?

Yes No Signature: _____

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT DECLARATION:

I declare that I fulfil and abide by the ASA membership terms and conditions (available at www.a-s-a.com.au), including the Code of Professional Conduct.

Yes Signature: _____

Ordinary members: must complete this section

Membership subscriptions for 2011/12 financial year are as follows (please tick the appropriate category):

- TYPE A:** All employees, including professional indemnity, legal benefits and public liability insurance, includes cover for Nuclear Medicine Technologist activities. **\$505**
- TYPE B:** Self-employed contractor with anticipated earnings of up to \$150,000 per annum in gross fees. **\$665**
- TYPE C:** Self-employed contractor or Pty Ltd earning in excess of \$150,000 in gross fees per annum, and/or owning their own equipment. Please pay this subscription and a proposal will be forwarded to you for completion so your premium can be assessed individually by our insurance broker. **\$385**
- TYPE D:** Membership without professional indemnity, legal benefits and public liability insurance. The ASA strongly recommend all sonographers protect themselves by holding cover independent of the cover held by their employer. **\$385**

ORDINARY MEMBERS must provide this additional information (A copy of your ultrasound certificate/diploma or ASAR certificate must accompany this application as proof of eligibility for Ordinary status and insurance):

Tertiary qualifications: _____

Institution: _____ Year completed _____

Ultrasound qualifications: _____

Institution: _____ Year completed _____

Clinical ultrasound experience (years): _____

Supporting and Overseas membership: please select

- Supporting membership – **\$305**
Supporting Membership Information – to assist us with building a profile of our membership, please indicate your current profession. (The profile of our membership is developed by aggregating the information and does not identify individuals. The information is used in providing member benefits and services and in supporting advocacy activities)
- doctor/surgeon nurse midwife veterinary education/academic scientific other _____
- Overseas membership (outside of Australia/NZ) – **\$335**

Payment method

- Cheque Money Order MasterCard Visa

Card no: _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____

CVC number: (the last 3 digits on the back of the card above the signature panel): _____

Cardholder's name: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Australian Sonographers Association Ltd ABN: 64 991 983 051 All prices quoted are in Australian dollars and include 10% GST.

Please forward your completed application form, together with a copy of your qualification to:

Australian Sonographers Association
PO Box 709
Moorabbin VIC 3189
F: 03 9585 2331
E: members@a-s-a.com.au