

Benefits of CISVic Membership

CISVic members enjoy a wide range of benefits.

There are three categories of membership: **Full members** enjoy the whole range of benefits, **Associate members** enjoy most of the benefits excluding voting rights (but may be a co-opted member of the Board), and **Individual** membership which provides an individual access to the members section of the website, E-bulletin and voting rights at the Annual General Meeting.

Membership of CISVic requires that agencies agree to support CISVic's mission statement and comply with the Standards and Policies of the Association. In addition, full members enjoy voting rights in CISVic elections to help direct the future of the organisation.



CISVic's Mission Statement

As the peak body for the community information & support sector, we will assist member agencies to provide support services to all in their local communities including vulnerable & disadvantaged people. Such services aim to uphold the dignity of all, respond to community needs, alleviate the impact of poverty & promote social justice.

Operational support

We provide a range of information and support on all aspects of community governance, including planning, community promotion, policy development, industrial issues, financial management, legal, and regulatory requirements. Where CISVic cannot provide information, members are referred to appropriate organisations.

Benefits under this category include:

- Insurance cover which includes Public & Products Liability; Professional Indemnity; Directors & Officers Liability; Association Liability; Medical Indemnity; and Personal Accident (Volunteers only),
- Distribution of information, research, and resource documents via a members-only portal on the CISVic website,
- CISVic Handbook: Management of Community Information Centres and a range of policy templates and examples,
- Jobs Australia discounted membership (providing specialist community sector industrial relation advice and support, and special bulk purchasing prices for Not-for-Profit Purchasing),
- Unlimited free job advertising on the CISVic website.

Sector development

We provide a range of sector development support to enable members to effectively engage in best practice service delivery. This includes professional development information and opportunities, and policy and advocacy development.

Benefits under this category include:

- Access to CISVic training opportunities which are low cost, and provide pathways to further education and employment,
- Accredited training which includes Assess & Provide Services for Clients with Complex Needs (50 hours),
- Non-accredited training on a range of topics relating to service delivery practice, and governance.
- Training Certificates, Certificates of Service (volunteers) & Honour Roll,
- Peer support and networking opportunities that include:
 - CISVic Regional Network Meetings,
 - CISVic Caseworkers' Network Meetings,
 - CISVic Members Meetings
 - Volunteer Coordinators Network
- Fortnightly eBulletins providing up-to-date information and news about the sector, policy and practice directions, and training and funding opportunities,
- Communication channels that include a members-only portal of the website, Facebook, Twitter, and promotion of member agencies via the website,
- *Informed*, a policy and practice newsletter focusing on topical and urgent issues affecting the sector.

Representation, advocacy, and research

CISVic aims to be the voice of the sector and advocate to government and other peak bodies on behalf of the membership and their communities. We also identify and initiate research and data collection to contribute to practice and evidence relevant to the sector. In doing so, we:

- Actively participate in relevant committees, networks and working groups at state and federal levels,
- engage in systemic advocacy and policy reform by leading and participating in advocacy campaigns relevant to the sector.

CISVic supports members in representation and advocacy efforts in various ways, including:

- Initiating research and data collection among the membership on topical and urgent issues for subsequent representation to governments and relevant stakeholders
- Providing information on key policy issues affecting service delivery and the wellbeing of people in the community
- Making submissions to Parliamentary Inquiries and Regulatory bodies on key issues on behalf of the sector
- Leading and facilitating advocacy actions among the membership on key policy issues
- Convening an Advocacy Working Group with representation from member agencies, with a focus on key campaign areas
- Participating in advocacy networks relating to specific issues such as housing, Centrelink, school costs, energy and utility bills, family violence, access to dental treatment, asylum seekers, effects of climate change and general resourcing for the sector to support the community.

