

**INFORMATION FOR
APPLICANTS FOR
VAPP MEMBERSHIP**

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ABOUT THE VAPP

The VAPP was founded in 1975, and became an Incorporated Association in 1992. The VAPP is a not-for-profit organisation and a registered charity. VAPP members are all qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapists.

The VAPP is a member of the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association of Australasia (PPAA), which was founded in 1981. The PPAA has six member organisations: four Australian State-based psychoanalytic psychotherapy organisations, one New Zealand association, and the Child Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association of Australia.

The PPAA is a member organisation of the Australasian Confederation of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapies.

All VAPP members are obliged to have knowledge of, and to work within the VAPP Code of Ethics and the VAPP Constitution and Regulations.

A copy of the Code of Ethics is available on the VAPP website under the tab: *About the VAPP*.

AIMS OF THE VAPP

Aims of the VAPP include:

- To conduct the training of psychotherapists and encourage the maintenance of high standards in their practice.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information about Psychotherapy.
- To encourage and promote research in Psychotherapy.
- To establish and uphold the Association Code of Ethics as a guideline for the practice of psychotherapy.
- To maintain liaison with other organisations with similar aims.

STRUCTURE OF THE VAPP

The VAPP has a membership of approximately 90 plus members. Financial members elect a Council annually and Council appoints members to the various committees. Council is responsible for electing a President, Secretary, Treasurer and President Elect as well as the members of committees. Committees are responsible to Council for the tasks delegated to them, however, Council has final responsibility for all organisational decisions. Each committee has a chairperson who is generally a member of Council, and reports to Council at regular intervals on the work of their Committee. Council meets every month, while committees meet as frequently as needed to attend to their tasks.

BEING A MEMBER OF THE VAPP

There are many advantages to being a VAPP member:

- recognition of credentials as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and listing as a member of the VAPP on the website
- opportunities to participate in life and work of the VAPP and the PPAA and to engage with others in the psychoanalytic community
- opportunities to be included as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist for the VAPP referral service and to be listed on the *Find a Therapist* page on the VAPP website

- eligibility to have private short courses, reading groups, supervision groups, seminars and other similar activities promoted in the Newsletter, on the VAPP website, on the Facebook page and through email lists.
- opportunities to present at and participate in professional development events of the VAPP and related organisations
- the opportunity to engage with Australasian and international speakers in person and on-line
- opportunities to teach in the VAPP Introductory Course and the VAPP Training Program
- eligibility to attend and present at PPA conferences
- eligibility to attend the Australasian Confederation of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapies
- opportunities to engage in reading and supervision groups with other VAPP members
- receive regular newsletters that include information about current VAPP matters
- receive the Australasian Journal of Psychotherapy
- opportunities to purchase the International Journal of Psychoanalysis at a reduced rate
- access to a well-resourced psychoanalytic library

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applications for membership are welcomed from clinicians who have graduated from the VAPP Training Program in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, from other training programs with equivalence to the VAPP Training Program, or from clinicians who have training in psychoanalytic psychotherapy not necessarily within a formal program. Equivalent standards and competencies can be demonstrated through graduation from a psychoanalytic training program in which personal therapy, supervision, and training in theory and technique are ideally concurrent, or where these elements of training were undertaken outside a formal training program. An example of this is:

- a Master degree in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy
- personal psychoanalytic psychotherapy for a minimum of two sessions per week over a number of years with a qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapist
- weekly supervision with a qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapist/s over an extended period
- weekly supervision with a qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapist specifically focussing on a psychoanalytic psychotherapy case seen for a minimum of two sessions a week over a minimum of two years
- weekly supervision with a qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapist specifically focussing on a psychoanalytic psychotherapy case seen for a minimum of two sessions a week over a minimum of 12 months
- a 12 month infant observation with a qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapist

All applicants are expected to be currently engaged in the ongoing practice of psychoanalytic psychotherapy and to be receiving regular and ongoing supervision of this work. Supervision can take the form of individual, group or peer supervision. Psychotherapists who believe they can demonstrate an equivalent training to the VAPP training program are encouraged to apply, and are welcome to discuss their circumstances and any questions they have with the Chair of the Membership Committee. Where training is equivalent, applicants will be invited to proceed to the interview stage of the membership application process. In some circumstances, the VAPP offers applicants the opportunity to undertake further training so that they can meet the requirements for membership.

A. Professional qualifications and experience

Applicants wishing to apply for membership of the VAPP are required to have significant clinical experience following graduation from earlier fields of study, for example in Medicine, Social work Psychology, Occupational Therapy, or Nursing.

B. Personal Psychotherapy

While the amount of personal psychotherapy is not specified, it would usually be expected to involve of at least four years of no less than twice weekly psychoanalytic therapy with a suitably qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapist. VAPP members and Australian Psychoanalytic Society members are suitably qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapists.

C. Supervision

Although this is not defined quantitatively, the minimum requirements are equivalent to those of the VAPP Training Program. At a minimum, weekly supervision with qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapists over an extended period which includes

- weekly supervision with a qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapist specifically focussing on a psychoanalytic psychotherapy case seen for a minimum of two sessions a week over a minimum of two years
- weekly supervision with a qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapist specifically focussing on a psychoanalytic psychotherapy case seen for a minimum of two sessions a week over a minimum of 12 months

D. Training in Theory and Technique

A comprehensive knowledge and understanding of psychoanalytic theory and technique is required consistent with that provided by the VAPP Training Program – see the Training and Education tab on the VAPP Website for a guide.

APPLICATION PROCESS

a) Information Required

Applications should be submitted by email to the Secretary of the Membership Committee. Contact details are available through the VAPP Administration Officer.

- a) A curriculum vitae including particulars of academic and work history, personal therapy (external applicants need to include the name of the psychoanalytic psychotherapist), supervision history and any publications
- b) The names and addresses, including email address, of two referees, at least one of whom is a current or recent supervisor of the applicant and is a suitably qualified psychoanalytic psychotherapist. The other referee needs to have detailed knowledge of the applicant's current or recent psychotherapeutic work
- c) Details of psychotherapy training undertaken (certificates and/or signed documents verifying components of training are required)
- d) General description of the applicant's psychoanalytic psychotherapy practice
- e) Copy of professional registration and professional insurance

b) Procedure

Membership of the VAPP is not automatic on completion of psychoanalytic psychotherapy training – including the VAPP psychoanalytic psychotherapy training program. Prospective applicants are welcome to discuss their professional circumstances, their application for membership, or how they might be able to meet equivalence of the VAPP Training Program with the Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

The process includes:

- Initial consideration for eligibility of an applicant by the Membership Committee
- Contacting applicant's referees
- At least two interviews arranged by the Membership Committee

- Further review of the application by the Membership Committee **who make** recommendations for membership
- Consideration of the Membership Committee's recommendations by VAPP Council

Applicants are informed of the Council's decision in writing. Where an applicant has not been accepted for membership, there will be an opportunity to speak with the Chairperson of the Membership Committee about issues such as re-application, or (where relevant) about further training, for example additional theoretical input or supervision.

PRIVACY POLICY

The VAPP Membership Committee is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information held or collected by the Association. Upon receipt of a membership application, copies are forwarded to each member of the Membership Committee. These copies are returned to the Chairperson after completion of the application process. One hard copy is securely filed, while all other copies are destroyed. In circumstances where applicants have not been successful, their applications are kept with our archived records in case of future application.

CHECKLIST FOR DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN APPLICATION

- Curriculum vitae including academic and work history, personal therapy (only give the name of your psychotherapist if you are an external applicant), supervision history and any publications
- Names and contact details of two referees (see *Information Required* on page 6)
- Details of psychotherapy training undertaken
- General description of the applicant's psychoanalytic psychotherapy practice
- Copy of professional registration and professional insurance
- Signed consent form

VAPP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION CONSENT FORM

I have been provided with the *Information for Applicants for VAPP Membership* document and the *VAPP Ethics Code* and the *VAPP Constitution with Regulations*

I confirm that all the information provided in my application is true and correct

I give permission for my referees to be contacted

I understand that the information provided by me and those others listed above, will be used to consider my suitability for VAPP membership

Name:

Signature: Date: