

## Interstate guests

### What has changed?

Interstate guests can now enter an ACT club without being accompanied by a member, because of new definitions and conditions in the *Gaming Machine Act 2004*.

The new definitions now allow membership options for interstate guests. An interstate guest is a person who is not a member of the club, and who does not reside in the ACT. An interstate guest can attend a club, without being accompanied by a member, if they sign in to the club and are issued with a temporary membership. These patrons are classified as *temporary members*.

Membership options for local guests have not changed. A local guest is someone who is not a member of the club but lives in the ACT. A local guest can only attend a club if they are signed in by a member and accompanied by a member. These patrons are classified as *signed-in guests*.

### What does it mean for me?

The new conditions make it easier for clubs in the ACT to be competitive with clubs across the border by opening up membership options. You can still refuse to issue a temporary membership to a person, for example if they are unable to prove that they live interstate.

Temporary members are not counted as members for:

- the purposes of a Social Impact Assessment of a club;
- reporting purposes and financial statements;
- applications for licences or authorisation certificates; or
- applications for authorisation amendment – increase maximum number.

Licensees cannot charge a fee for temporary memberships, and temporary members cannot be voting members of the club, and are not counted as club members for reporting requirements.

### What's the process for admitting a temporary member?

It's up to you to determine your club's processes for issuing temporary memberships to interstate guests. But remember, you cannot charge interstate guests a fee for their temporary membership and they cannot be allowed to be a voting member.

### Frequently asked questions

*Are people from Queanbeyan and the local NSW region considered interstate guests?*

Yes. Any person who lives outside the ACT, and can demonstrate this, is an interstate guest.

*Is a temporary member still a member?*

The amended definition of *member* in the Act ensures that temporary members are not considered club members for reporting, financial auditing or authorisation requirements. However, licensees should seek independent legal advice if including this type of membership in the club's constitution is appropriate.

For reporting purposes under the Act, a *member* continues to be someone who is required to pay fees under the rules of a club, or is a life member of a club.

## References

### [Gaming Machine Act 2004](#)

Conditions about guests and temporary membership - s54A

Dictionary, definition of *member*

### [Gaming Machine Regulation 2004](#)

Working out club members – s7

### [Liquor Act 2010](#)

What is a *club* licence? – s20

What is an *eligible club*? – s70

Offence – club licensee advertise for public attendance – s143