



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY WIVES CHOIR

JOINING THE AMWCHOIR

1. Choir Locations

The AMWChoir has in-person choirs in 13 locations – Adelaide, Albury Wodonga, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, East Sale, Melbourne West, Mornington, Newcastle, Perth, Sydney, Townsville and Wagga Wagga. There is also an AMWChoir that operates entirely online and which has members zooming in from all parts of Australia and overseas. Overseas members must be Australian and should preferably have been a member of the AMWChoir within Australia.

The AMWChoir is a not-for-profit association, incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory. It is managed by a National Committee, comprising seven members, including a National Business Manager, a National Music Director, a Treasurer and a Secretary. Each choir has a Choir Director and many also have a Choir Co-ordinator. Musical and choral leadership is provided by the National Music Director.

Choir rehearsals in locations are held on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month during school terms. Rehearsals generally run from 7.00 to 8.30pm but are set by each location. AMWChoir Online rehearses on the second Thursday of each month.

2. Eligibility for Membership

AMWChoir members must have a significant relationship with an Australian Defence Force (ADF) member or an allied defence force member (for example, spouse, girlfriend, daughter, mother), or had a significant connection that may recently have changed, or be a serving, reserve or recently retired female ADF member.

Existing members whose partners (or themselves) discharge from the defence force, are welcome to continue as members of the Choir. Previous members may rejoin at any time, regardless of their current status with the defence force.

In addition to full membership, the AMWChoir offers Junior and Child memberships. Both of these member categories apply to girls with a significant relationship with an ADF member. A parent or guardian must also be a member and must always accompany the girl. Junior and Child members must be accompanied at all time by a parent/guardian who is an eligible Adult member.

The only exception to the requirement regarding a connection with the defence force, is for Accompanists, who bring expertise in playing the piano/keyboard to the Choir. Serving Choir Directors, Choir Co-ordinators, Accompanists and Life Members are awarded honorary membership, with no membership fee required.

3. Membership Fee

All members, except serving Choir Directors, Choir Co-ordinators and Accompanists and Life Members, must pay an annual membership fee, which is due in January of each calendar year. Interested women may attend one rehearsal at no cost – as a 'come and try' experience – but must then formally join the association in order to continue to participate.

Junior and Child members must formally join the association. Junior members must pay a membership fee equal to 50% of the full annual fee; Child members do not need to pay for their membership.

The membership fee covers administrative costs, such as insurance, licences and copyright. Once the annual fee is paid, members are given a name badge and provided with a folder of the AMWChoir music repertoire, which must be returned at the end of each year. If a folder is not returned at the end of a year, the member will be charged a fee to cover the cost of replacing the music. Junior members will receive a music folder; Child members must share the folder of their accompanying Adult member.

A password allowing access to practice tracks for the repertoire, on both the website and the AMWChoir 'app', is also provided.

New and returning members can join/renew by going to <https://www.amwchoir.com/joining> and paying the membership fee by credit card or by direct deposit. Cash payments cannot be accepted.

4. Participation

To ensure that all members are equal, the AMWChoir officially identifies members by first name only and never identifies ADF service and ranks of the associated defence force member.

Singing in rehearsals is an essential part of AMWChoir membership but participating in performances is optional. Providing assistance, as required, at rehearsals is important; volunteering for specific roles and/or activities within the AMWChoir is encouraged but optional.

The AMWChoir has a uniform that members wear at performances. The uniform is optional and can be purchased through the website. For more information, refer to the *AMWChoir Uniform and Equipment Policy (Doc6)*.

New members will be invited to join a national Facebook group for AMWChoir members, past and present, as well as a private group specifically for communication within their choir location. Participation in social media is voluntary. For more information, refer to the *AMWChoir Social Media Policy (Doc9)*.