

CRITERIA AND ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF A GENERAL MEMBER OF NEXT GEN

The Next Gen – Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and Industry is an inclusive network designed to support, connect, and empower young professionals, entrepreneurs, and emerging leaders across all industries. General membership is open to individuals aged 16 to 35 years, regardless of their level of experience, from trainees and apprentices to business owners and senior professionals.

1. Membership Criteria

To become a General Member of Next Gen, individuals must:

- Be between the ages of 16 and 35 years old at the time of joining.
- Be currently employed, undertaking a traineeship/apprenticeship, running a business, studying, or actively engaged in a professional field.
- Work in or have professional ties to the Gunnedah region across any industry (e.g., trades, retail, hospitality, health, agriculture, corporate, creative industries, community services, or not-for-profits).
- Have an interest in professional development, business networking, and community engagement.
- Align with the values and mission of Next Gen, demonstrating a willingness to participate in activities that promote business, innovation, and leadership.
- Be a current financial member of Next Gen (if applicable).

2. Role of a General Member

A General Member of Next Gen plays an important role in shaping the future of the local business community. While leadership positions are available for those who wish to take on additional responsibilities, general members are the backbone of Next Gen, actively contributing through participation and engagement.

General Members Are Encouraged To:

- Engage in Networking & Events:
 - Attend Next Gen networking events, business meetups, and social gatherings.
 - Build relationships with fellow young professionals, business owners, and industry mentors.
- Develop Professionally:
 - Access business and career development workshops, training sessions, and mentorship programs.
 - Gain exposure to industry leaders, local businesses, and professional development resources.
- Contribute to the Local Business Community:
 - Support initiatives that promote economic growth and young entrepreneurship in Gunnedah.



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- Advocate for youth-driven innovation, ideas, and opportunities in the region.
- Participate in Community Engagement & Advocacy:
 - Volunteer for community projects, fundraising events, or business-related initiatives.
 - Represent young professionals in discussions about the future of business and economic development in Gunnedah.
- Get Involved in Committees & Special Projects (Optional):
 - Join a committee focused on areas such as events, marketing, professional development, or community engagement.
 - Take part in special projects that align with their industry or interests.

3. Responsibilities of a General Member

Being a General Member of Next Gen is a commitment to professional and personal growth. While there are no mandatory leadership duties, members are expected to:

- Attend at least some Next Gen events throughout the year to remain active and engaged.
- Promote a positive, professional, and inclusive environment within the Chamber community.
- Follow Next Gen's Code of Conduct, respecting fellow members, leadership teams, and partner organisations.
- Provide feedback and input on programs, events, and initiatives to ensure they remain relevant and valuable to young professionals.
- Represent Next Gen with integrity, whether in their workplace, industry, or community interactions.

4. Benefits of Membership

General membership offers valuable opportunities for professional growth, networking, and leadership development, including:

- ✓ Access to Networking Opportunities – Meet like-minded young professionals, mentors, and business leaders in the region.
- ✓ Career & Business Development – Attend workshops, business education programs, and personal growth events.
- ✓ Industry Exposure – Gain insights into different sectors, innovation trends, and regional business opportunities.
- ✓ Mentorship & Support – Connect with established professionals for guidance and mentorship.
- ✓ Community Involvement – Contribute to meaningful local projects and business initiatives.
- ✓ Pathway to Leadership – For those who wish to take on more responsibility, opportunities exist to apply for leadership positions, committee roles, or mentorship programs.

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Membership Application Process

To become a General Member of Next Gen – Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, individuals must:

- Complete the [Membership Application Form](#).
- Submit any required membership fees (if applicable).
- Agree to Next Gen's Code of Conduct & Participation Guidelines.
- Begin participating in events, networking, and opportunities available through Next Gen.

