

CIHP Application: Frequently Asked Questions



College of Indigenous
Healing Practices

Who is eligible to apply for membership into CIHP?

Applicants must be either Australian First Nations or International First Nations peoples. Membership is open to people that identify as either Australian First Nations or International First Nations as defined and outlined in the [UN Fact Sheet Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Voices](#) and are PACFA:

- Student members
- Affiliate members
- Academic members
- Certified Practising registrants
- Clinical registrants

What documents are required as part of the membership into CIHP?

Applicants are required to supply the following documentation:

- Completed CIHP membership application form addressing each of the 8 key areas and reason for wanting to join CIHP.
- A completed and signed Statutory Declaration confirming Australian First Nations or International First Nations identification.
- Two letters of support written by an Elder from a community you have been supporting and involved in for over a year.

If a letter of support is over 5 years old, you need to clearly state in your Statutory Declaration that you have an ongoing relationship with the supporter and the approximate time frame.

Can I apply for membership into CIHP if I am not a First Nations person?

No. Membership into CIHP is not open to non-First Nations peoples. This is to ensure the College remains a culturally safe place that deconstructs Western approaches.

How long does the application process take?

The processing time for applicants is approximately 6-8 weeks from submission to outcome notification. Please note this is dependent on if further information or documentation is required for eligibility screening, number of applications to be processed and time allocation for the yarn.

What is a 'yarn' and why is it part of the application process?

- A **yarning circle** is a valued practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, providing a space for storytelling, collective learning, and cultural knowledge-sharing. It fosters respectful relationships through open and meaningful discussions, strengthening community and cultural connections.
- Integrating a yarning circle into the membership application process enhances information gathering while fostering genuine connections. This relationship-first approach prioritises meaningful engagement between applicants and the Leadership Group over a strictly business-focused process.

How will I be contacted about my application status?

- If further information is required at the eligibility screening stage the applicant will be contacted via email by the CIHP Project Officer. The applicant will have the opportunity to speak by phone if that is preferable.
- If an applicant has progressed to a yarn and have been successful, a member of the Leadership Group will contact the applicant welcoming them into CIHP. Applicants will also receive a welcome letter confirming admission into CIHP.
- If the application does not meet the required criteria (as determined by the yarn members) – a member of the Leadership Group will contact you to either seek further information, or to advise that the application does not meet the eligibility criteria at this time.

How do I appeal a decision?

An appeal is to be lodged within 28 days of the decision with the PACFA Head of Practice, via practice@pacfa.org.au or by letter to the Head of Practice at the PACFA office. The appeal must clearly state the grounds for appeal. Appeals will be heard by an appropriate appeal panel.

Can I call myself an Indigenous Healing Practitioner if my application is successful?

CIHP members cannot declare they are a PACFA certified Indigenous Healing Practitioner. Membership into CIHP is purely membership based.

What fees will I need to pay?

For the current College application fee and membership fee rates, please refer to the PACFA website – [Schedule of Fees](#).

What are the benefits of being a member of CIHP?

- A culturally safe environment where the intersection of First Nations approaches, and Western approaches are discussed.
- Connect with therapeutic practitioners who incorporate a variety of culturally integrated approaches in their work.
- Benefit from CIHP's advocacy by First Nations peoples for First Nations peoples, raising awareness of our specialist skills, knowledge, and experience.
- Gain access to professional and personal development opportunities, including mentorship from First Nations leaders.

How do I apply for membership with CIHP?

- To apply for CIHP membership you must first be a PACFA member and be either an Australian First Nations or International First Nations person
- Complete the CIHP Membership Application Form and email the completed form, along with the required supporting documents to the CIHP Project Officer at cihp@pacfa.org.au

What do I do if I need help with my application?

If you would like further clarification on any of the membership criteria, please contact CIHP directly at cihp@pacfa.org.au

If my application is successful, will I receive a badge?

Yes. You will receive a badge that says you are a member of the College of Indigenous Healing Practices.