
INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS BASED OVERSEAS

October 2025

This information is for individuals and companies based outside Australia who are interested in applying to become a member of Copyright Agency.

ABOUT COPYRIGHT AGENCY

Copyright Agency is a not-for-profit organisation whose members are principally writers, artists and photographers.

Copyright Agency is appointed by the Australian Government to manage statutory licence schemes that allow uses of content by the education and government sectors without permission from the rightsholders, but subject to fair compensation. Copyright Agency also manages a range of other licence schemes, based on the authority of its members. These include licence schemes for the corporate sector.

For more information see our [annual report](#).¹

DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENTS

Under Copyright Agency's distribution arrangements, recipients of payments are usually required to share the payments with anyone else with a legal entitlement, unless we have received information about the contractual arrangements between relevant parties.

For example, a publisher who receives a payment needs to share the payment with an author entitled to a share of Copyright Agency payments under the contract between the author and publisher, unless the publisher has provided us with information that enables us to pay the author their contractual share directly.

Our distribution arrangements are therefore different to those of many other copyright management organisations.

ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

Most deductions are based on actual operating costs, and vary from distribution to distribution.

In recent years, expenses as a proportion of revenue and investment income have been around 14%.

For more information see the '[Fees](#)' page on our website,² and our [annual report](#).³

ROYALTY WITHHOLDING TAX

We normally deduct royalty withholding tax (RWHT) if you are based overseas, unless you are an Australian resident for tax purposes. RWHT varies from 5% to 30% depending on the arrangements between Australia and the country in which you are based.

¹ <https://www.copyright.com.au/about-us/governance/annual-reports/>

² <http://copyright.com.au/membership/administration-fees/>

³ <https://www.copyright.com.au/about-us/governance/annual-reports/>

You may be entitled to offset the amount of RWHT deducted from your payment against other tax liabilities.

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

All Copyright Agency members are entitled to receive payments from the statutory licence schemes that Copyright Agency manages.

Copyright Agency members can choose to:

- authorise Copyright Agency to include their content in non-statutory licence schemes; or
- join solely to receive payments from the statutory licence schemes.

PAYMENT VIA A COPYRIGHT MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION IN YOUR COUNTRY

Copyright Agency has reciprocal arrangements with similar organisations in many other countries. This means that we pay copyright fees we collect in Australia for a rightsholders based outside Australia to the copyright management organisation in the rightsholder's country, if the rightsholder is not a member of Copyright Agency.

The organisations with which we have reciprocal arrangements are [listed on our website](#).⁴

⁴ <http://copyright.com.au/about-copyright/international-copyright/international-affiliates/>