

MUTUAL AND SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP

There are basically two types of membership of AISE. *Mutual* members may be *Affiliates*, *Associates* or *Fellows*. *Sponsor* members may be *Ordinary* or *Builder-Investors*. The two terms 'mutual' and 'sponsor' may suggest that there are two broad classes of membership in AISE or even quite different understandings of social entrepreneurship. But these meanings are far from what we mean.

'Mutual Members' are individuals who are social change agents. They more directly engage in social enterprises that meet social needs; that have significant social impact; and that speak directly to achieving a social mission. 'Sponsor Members' are less directly involved in the implementation of social enterprises. In the first instance, they contribute directly through financial support. But they may also participate in the sustainability of an enterprise through supporting its development of earned-income strategies, to leadership capacity, and through 'modelling' (for and with social entrepreneurs) a business oriented culture. In these ways with social entrepreneur-partners they collaborate to achieve the sustainability of the enterprise.

Both 'groups' can be mutually reinforcing with mutual member 'leading' social entrepreneurs being the recognised and proven achievers, role models and knowledge brokers of the social enterprise experience. Sponsor members on the other hand may invest because of a deeply held concern and/or benevolence for assisting social entrepreneurs; or they may also be the skill-builders and vibrant explorers of enterprise opportunities and ideas in the early phase of experiencing social entrepreneurship practice.