

SUBMISSION NO. 111

Reference P.6

4 September 2006



The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Mr Mark Murphy recently attended a presentation by you regarding a submission to the Federal Inquiry in to Civics and Electoral Education.

My Council of Governors recently determined to adopt Mr Murphy's brief submission, and I commend it to you.

Please do not hesitate to call me on 02 4940 8033 if you require further information.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Rob Oerlemans
Executive Officer
Lions Australia

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Lions Australia

Submission to an Inquiry into Civics and Electoral Education

As the world's premier service organisation, Lions number almost 1.35 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs throughout 199 countries and geographical areas. In addition, the Lions Leo program is made up of youth (both male and female) aged between 12 and 28 within over 5,600 clubs in more than 137 countries. In Australia and Papua New Guinea there are 1,400 Leos who are members of 68 Leo clubs.

Leos provide Leadership, Experience and Opportunities for youth including the annual election of new leaders and protocol for effective meetings for the purpose of civic service and community engagement.

The process of electing an executive committee and board within Leo clubs is an election system introduced to youth as young as 12 years of age. Although often applied in a relaxed fashion the process entails that each year during or prior to the month of March, a nominating committee for new club officers is appointed by the club president or is elected by club members. This committee begins by appointing a chairperson. Then, it proceeds to nominate fellow Leos to serve as club leaders for the following year. The club president requests the list of candidates from the committee chairman. Additional nominations may be accepted from Leos in attendance. When there are multiple candidates for a single office, written ballots are used. Victorious candidates are those who receive a majority of the votes. An appropriate installation ceremony is conducted.

Board meetings broadly adhere to parliamentary procedure and unless specifically provided otherwise in the clubs constitution all questions of parliamentary procedure in the operations of a Leo club are governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Leo clubs operate both independently and in collaboration with state and private schools. The Lions-Quest program encompasses three skills based curriculum being Skills for Growing (K-5), Skills for Adolescence (6-9) and Skills for Action (9-12) that are designed to cater to the needs of today's youth and facilitate those of teachers and educators. The Skills for Adolescence program targeting youth aged between 12 and 15 incorporates Service-Learning curriculum. Although two independent programs, coupling Leo clubs and the Lions-Quest programs helps strengthen the link between the tactile experiences of club and project management and recognised service learning curriculum.

Lions resolve to be sensitive to the needs and desires of youth, determined through dialogue and analysis, shall support, help or assist, design and sponsor youth programs and activities to help meet both existing and future needs and, thereby, provide for the future of mankind.

As an apolitical organisation, having an international purpose of promoting the "principles of good government and good citizenship," we would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about this inquiry and discuss in further detail ways in which Lions can contribute.

Yours in Service,

Mark Murphy
For and on behalf of
Lions Australia