

Canberra Liberals Code of Ethics and Conduct

INTRODUCTION

The Canberra Liberals are committed to providing honest, transparent and competent leadership for the benefit of the Canberra community.

To meet this commitment, all members must act in a way that builds confidence in the Canberra Liberals and avoid engaging in practices that compromise the integrity of the Party, its membership, or its management and political processes.

The Canberra Liberals is an organisation where the power rests with its members, with all members aspiring to building a culture that:

- respects and acknowledges the power rests with its members,
- acknowledges that every individual is as important as the next,
- respects every individual regardless of their background or community standing,
- seeks to gain the trust and confidence of the Canberra community,
- advocates a purpose that inspires, encourages and supports Canberrans,
- builds on foundations of decency and opportunity for all,
- prides itself on both personal and organisational integrity,
- commits to transparency of process,
- offers fair, positive, balanced and dynamic leadership,
- conforms to the Party's ethical guidelines,
- does not rest on its laurels but constantly strives to improve its standards, and
- inspires, supports and encourages the people of Canberra.

GUIDELINES:

1. Our moral obligation

Members of the Canberra Liberals must accept their personal and professional behaviour reflects on the reputation of the Party, and while individuals can choose their own standards in life, once a member of the Party, they are part of a team that aspires to achieving high standards of personal and moral conduct.

This is consistent with the Canberra Liberals culture of a Party built on foundations of opportunity for all, and which seeks to gain the trust and confidence of the Canberra community.

2. A call to serve – not self interest

A member of the Canberra Liberals seeks to serve the community – Party membership is not an opportunity for self-gain, nor an opportunity for the benefit of friends, family and other personal connections.

Members of the Canberra Liberals must not favour, nor be open to suggestions of favouring those close to them. Parliamentary representatives and Canberra Liberals office bearers must be diligent in:

- not condoning the employment, or the assisting of beneficial employment of family members;
- ensuring the use of Parliamentary entitlements for their designated purpose and within the designated limits;
- ensuring compliance by Members of the ACT Assembly to the remuneration rules of the Legislative Assembly; and

- ensuring compliance by Members and Senators of the Australian Parliament to the remuneration and entitlements rules of the Parliament.

Members of the Canberra Liberals who become aware of, or who have access to, confidential information must not:

- use confidential information for their own purposes;
- seek to gain a benefit, for themselves or for anyone else, from that knowledge; and
- must neither disclose nor misuse confidential information.

3. Raising the bar on conduct:

Members of the Canberra Liberals should observe the Party's rules as set out in the Constitution, and should promote the Party's established principles and policies.

Members should maintain high standards of truth, accuracy, fair dealing and decorum, and should demonstrate respect and trust towards other members.

A member should not injure the reputation of another member.

4. When we gather:

Members of the Canberra Liberals should conduct themselves in meetings with courtesy and professionalism, in accordance the Party's constitution, standing orders for meetings and/or branch constitutions or by-laws. The following apply:

- confidentiality of Party meetings must be observed whenever it is appropriate,
- resolutions passed by councils, committees or branches should be given appropriate consideration by parliamentary representatives, relevant committees, executives, and applicable Party bodies,
- parliamentary representatives must do their utmost to implement the policy resolutions passed in accordance with the constitution of the Canberra Liberals, and
- conveners of the various committees of the Canberra Liberals should have regard for the convenience of the various committee members.

5. Engagement with the media:

The media is one of the major avenues through which the Canberra community remains informed. The media also plays a key role in the political process and, as such, it is imperative the Canberra Liberal's message to the media is consistent.

To this end, only the President, Honorary General Secretary and Administrative Director of the Canberra Liberals are authorised to make public comment on Party matters. If there is an urgent need the Parliamentary Leader and senior Federal Representative may make limited comment on Party matters but should not routinely comment upon Party matters nor offer an ongoing commentary upon Party issues.

6. Taking responsibility and being accountable:

Members of the Canberra Liberals are not only part of a team but also have the power to shape the destiny of the party and the Canberra community.

But with this authority, comes responsibility as poor decisions reflect not only on the individual but also on the Party, and has the potential to seriously undermine the capacity of the Canberra Liberals to provide the Canberra community with leadership and direction.

Accountability is part of belonging to the team. Accordingly:

- parliamentary representatives and office bearers should be willing to be accountable at Party meetings for any of their actions or activities, fairly raised, and
- incumbent parliamentary representatives and office bearers should recognise, without rancour, the entitlement of any eligible member to contest their positions.

Members of the Canberra Liberals should co-operate with fellow members in upholding this code of accountability and urge other members to higher levels of conduct.

7. Engagement with donors:

Donors do not receive favours in return for their contributions. If donors support the Party, they do so because they believe in the Party – its purpose, its policies, its principles and its capacity to lead and serve the Canberra community and the nation.

Hence, not only must the making of a donation not influence decision-making or outcomes, it must also be demonstrated, with clarity and resolve, that donations do not influence the processes of the Party.

Parliamentary representatives and office bearers will strictly adhere to all Finance Committee regulations regarding fundraising, the receipt of funds and the spending of and accounting for funds.

Parliamentary representatives and office bearers should remain at arm's length from donations, and have nothing to do with the receipt of donations. To this end:

- if support is offered, there must be no suggestion of favour, or support, in return; and
- no undertaking, other than public undertakings already made by the Parliamentary Leader, can be given.

The Parliamentary Leader will not be sympathetic to suggestions private undertakings be given as opposed to public commitments.

Stakeholders external to the Party may also have their own codes of ethics. For example, the ACT Legislative Assembly has a code of ethical standards which applies to all members of the Assembly. Members of the Assembly should adhere to such codes.

Adopted by Management Committee June 2019

The Canberra Liberals also adhere to the Liberal Party of Australia's National Code of Conduct. The link is [available here](#).