

MEETING PRINCIPLES

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- **We promote Australian Conservatives and its principles.**
- **We respect people and party rules.**
- **We are organised, focussed and courteous.**
- **We support a fair go, we bring friends and we chip in.**

More specifically:

1. **We promote our principles.** We ensure that those in attendance have read and accept [Our Principles](#) and these Meeting Principles before participating in the meeting.
2. **We support the Party.** Meetings organised by Australian Conservatives members are for the encouragement and support of the movement. We do not seek to support or promote other parties, movements, ideologies in conflict with [Our Principles](#) or personal business.
3. **We respect Party rules.** These Meetings do not represent Australian Conservatives, they are meetings of our supporters for mutual encouragement. Members must not use Party logos or personal imagery of Australian Conservatives representatives without prior HQ approval.
4. **We are organised.** Everyone's time is precious. Meetings must have defined starting and finishing times and stick to those times. Meetings are to be managed and chaired by the person hosting the event, but are otherwise to be informal gatherings and, specifically, are not to have agendas, conduct votes or pass motions. Meetings are private for members and their friends, and not for other members of the public. Meetings are not to be promoted or discussed in the media. Actions agreed at a meeting are only actions for those who agree with them and are not the Actions of Australian Conservatives. We encourage members to feed back to HQ as to what actions they propose taking after the meeting so that we can guide and assist.
5. **We are focussed.** Meetings exist principally to ensure the work of Australian Conservatives is promoted. We share ideas to promote the movement. We do not

get bogged in bitterness about the past – we look towards the future, informed by what happened in the past. Discussions that get stuck on one topic, or a specific aspect of policy, should be moved back to core topics for discussion.

6. **We support a fair go.** Every person in attendance must have the opportunity to have their say and respectfully participate. The meeting chair must not dominate the proceedings nor allow anyone else to dominate proceedings. We welcome the opportunity for everyone to participate, including young people 15 years of age and older. Any member can communicate directly with HQ about their opinions and what occurs at meetings.
7. **We respect people.** Each one of us is a conservative for our own personal reasons, which will be for different reasons to others. We respect that people reached their views after some thought. We support free speech. We support respectful speech, yet we are also not quickly offended. We respect people's privacy – they only need divulge as much as they wish. We meet to support Australian Conservatives, not to pry into private lives.
8. **We bring friends.** Members may bring prospective members to meetings but are responsible for their guest's actions at the meeting. Members are responsible for ensuring that friends understand the Meeting Principles before participating.
9. **We are courteous.** We respect Australian tradition and customs, particularly respect for elders, women, children and religious beliefs. Members who act disrespectfully, rudely or illegally at or near meetings will be sanctioned and may find they have limited opportunities for future participation. Where meetings occur in homes, we respect that we are in another person's private space and home and act accordingly.
10. **We chip in.** We offer to help set up, cater, clean up and financially contribute wherever possible to the cost of hosting of the meeting. Meetings will not be financed by the party but by those members and friends in attendance. We are alert to spreading the load so that one person does not do everything.