

POLICY 10: NON-PARTISAN

U3A Croydon is non-partisan in that it does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. It is political in that it takes positions on selected Federal, Victorian, and Local Governmental issues after member study and agreement.

U3A Croydon recognises the role of the political parties in our form of government and believes that participation in the activities of the political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. While the U3A Croydon encourages its members to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary to maintain the non-partisanship of the organisation.

The U3A Croydon Committee has established the following policy guidelines:

Committee Responsibilities

- The Committee has the responsibility of maintaining the fact of the non-partisanship of the organisation.
- If a committee member plans to engage in political activity, that member must seek a committee decision as to whether the activity would affect the community's perception of the U3A Croydon's non-partisanship.
- The President and officers may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate or for a non-U3A Croydon issue.
- Committee members must resign before they run for elective office.
- Committee members may have party affiliations and should certainly carry out the responsibilities of every voter in exercising the franchise, including the responsibility to become informed about the candidates.

Member Responsibilities

- Once U3A Croydon (local, state, or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as U3A Croydon members in publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to a U3A Croydon position. Every U3A Croydon member must take the responsibility for clearly differentiating between their private opinions and the U3A Croydon position.
- All U3A members are expected to keep their U3A Croydon activity and their political activity separate and distinct. For example, members may not distribute U3A Croydon materials at the same time as material for a candidate or a party. This applies to partisan and non-partisan elections of any type.
- Members representing the U3A Croydon in the community should be sensitive to their responsibilities. When acting in public as U3A Croydon representatives, members must not allow partisanship to be discernible. These members should be fully aware of U3A Croydon positions.

- Members may serve on governmental bodies/commissions at their own discretion. If the appointment is U3A Croydon-related, the appointee should be fully aware of the U3A Croydon positions as they relate to the bodies/commission's responsibilities.
- Members in leadership roles at unit and other public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the non-partisanship of the meeting and its environment. Only U3A Croydon Committee approved petitions may be circulated at U3A Croydon meetings.
- The U3A Croydon's membership list is not to be made available for non-U3A Croydon use.

AUTHORISATION:

This Policy was adopted by the Committee of Management of U3A Croydon Inc. on 10th August 2023. This policy will be published by the Committee of Management of U3A Croydon on its website within 4 weeks of the date of this authorisation.

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