



# ETHICS CODE

## **INTRODUCTION**

The LNP is committed to providing honest and transparent leadership for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

If the LNP is to fulfill its mandate, all members need to act in a way that builds confidence and takes social responsibility seriously.

A member should not engage in any practice that compromises the integrity of the Party, its membership or the political process.

The following guidelines flow from the party's "culture document" stating the intent to be a Party:

- that prides itself on integrity and transparency
- where the power rests with its members
- where every individual is as important as the next
- where the trust and confidence of the Queensland people is paramount
- with a purpose that inspires, supports and encourages Queenslanders
- that respects every individual regardless of their background or where they may live
- that never rests on its laurels but constantly strives to improve its standards
- with its foundations built on decency and opportunity for all
- that offers positive, dynamic leadership that is fair and balanced
- that takes its ethical guidelines seriously

## **GUIDELINES:**

### **1. Our moral obligation**

Members should accept that their behavior, both personal and professional, reflect on the reputation of the party. While all members can and do choose their own standards in life, when they join the LNP, they are joining a team and for the sake of the team, should strive to remain beyond reproach in their moral conduct.

This is consistent with the LNP cultural pillars:

- A party where the trust and confidence of the Queensland people is paramount
- A party with its foundations built on decency and opportunity for all

### **2. A call to serve, not self interest**

Being a member of the LNP is an opportunity to serve the community, not an opportunity for self-gain or the benefit of friends, family and other intimate connections.

All members must be careful not to be seen to be favoring those closest to them. Members of Parliament and LNP office bearers in particular must be particularly diligent in this area.

- The LNP does not condone the employment of family members.
- Parliamentary entitlements must be used strictly within their designated limits and for their designated purpose.
  - Members of the Queensland Parliament are bound by the [Legislative Assembly Of Queensland Members' Remuneration Handbook](#)
  - Members and Senators of the Australian Parliament shall be bound by the [Parliamentary remuneration and entitlements](#)
- Members of the LNP who become aware of confidential information must not use that information for their own purposes, or seek to gain a benefit from it, for themselves or for anyone else, and must not inappropriately disclose the information.
- A member of the LNP must not misuse confidential information.

This is consistent with the LNP cultural pillars:

- A party where trust and confidence of the Queensland people is paramount
- A party with its foundations built on decency and opportunity for all
- A party that prides itself on integrity and transparency

### **3. Raising the bar on conduct:**

Members 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 good taste. They should demonstrate respect and trust towards other members.

A member should not injure the reputation of another member.

This is consistent with the LNP cultural pillars:

- A party where every individual is as important as the next
- A party where the power rests with the members

#### **4. When we gather:**

Members should conduct themselves in meetings with courtesy, professionalism and respect and in accordance the Party's Standing Orders for Meetings.

- The confidentiality of Party meetings must be observed whenever it is appropriate.
- Resolutions passed by State Convention should be given appropriate consideration by members of Parliament, Policy Committees and other Party Units.
- Conveners of committee meetings should have regard for the convenience of committee members, particularly those for whom considerable travel is involved.

This is consistent with the LNP cultural pillars:

- A party where every individual is as important as the next
- A party that offers positive, dynamic leadership that is fair and balanced

#### **5. Engaging the media:**

The media has an important job in keeping Queenslanders informed and plays a key role in the political process and, as such, it is imperative that the LNP's message is always consistent. To this end only the LNP President and State Director are authorised to make public comment on Party matters – refer clause V.14 of the [LNP Constitution](#).

#### **6. Taking responsibility and being accountable:**

LNP members are part of a team with an important mandate. LNP members have the power to shape the destiny of the party. With this authority comes responsibility. Poor choices reflect not only on the individual but the party and can seriously undermine the LNP's capacity to provide Queensland with the leadership and direction it deserves. Accountability is a key part of belonging to the team.

- Office bearers and Parliamentary representatives should be willing to be accountable at Party meetings for any of their actions or activities, fairly raised.
- Incumbent office bearers and members of parliament should recognise, without rancour, the entitlement of any eligible member to contest their positions.
- Members should co-operate with fellow members in upholding the Statement and urge each other on to higher levels of conduct

This is consistent with the LNP cultural pillars:

- A party where the power rests with individual members
- A party that prides itself on integrity and transparency
- A party that never rests on its laurels but constantly strives to improve its standards
- A party where the trust and confidence of the Queensland people is paramount

## 7. Engaging donors:

Donor relations is a sensitive area that requires diligence. Essentially the making of a donation must not influence a decision making process or outcome. Donors do not receive favors for their contributions. If they donate, they do so because they believe in the party, its leadership and its capacity to more effectively steward Queensland. It's not sufficient that decision making is not influenced by donations, it also must be able to be demonstrated that that is so this with resolve and clarity.

The clearest way for elected representatives to be able to avoid the suggestion of influence is to be in a position of having no knowledge of any donation, and the only way that that can be achieved is to have nothing to do with receipt of donations.

- If support is offered in some other way, there must be no suggestion of some sort of favour or support in return.
- You should not offer any sort of undertaking that has not been cleared by the Parliamentary Leader. It is for the Parliamentary Leader to give electoral undertakings on behalf of the Party. The Parliamentary Leader will not be sympathetic to the suggestion that we give private undertakings as opposed to public ones.
- There are stakeholders external to the Party that have their own Codes of Ethics. For example, the Queensland Legislative Assembly has adopted a code of ethical standards applying to all members of the Assembly. The code is available on the Queensland Parliament's website [www.parliament.qld.gov.au](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au)

This is consistent with the LNP cultural pillars:

- A party that prides itself on integrity and transparency
- A party where the trust and confidence of the Queensland people is paramount
- A party with a conscience that inspires, supports and encourages Queenslanders