

Why your club might need an ABN...  
... and Roberts Rules of Order

Club Notes

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## Why your club might need an ABN...

Increasingly Lions Clubs are being asked to provide an ABN when completing a grant or account application. In most situations, providing this information is optional. If your Club is unable to complete an application without an ABN then registering for one may be necessary.

Note: as Lions Clubs are separate legal entities they are not permitted to use the MD 201 ABN.

An Australian Business Number (ABN) is used to identify businesses, organisations and some community groups as they interact with government, financial institutions, and each other. Registering for an ABN is related to, but not the same as, registering for GST. They each have their own eligibility criteria.

For more information about ABN requirements for you Club please visit

<https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/>

## Roberts Rules of Order or P.E. Joske

We occasionally receive enquiries from clubs and districts regarding the correct authority for meeting rules.

Simply put; it is permissible to use any authority provided it is authorised by the correct instrument (standing orders, policy or constitution). This agreement should be confirmed prior to the decision-making process that relies the rules.

The Multiple District Legal Officer advises:

*“Quite a few years ago, Council resolved that “The Law and Procedure at Meetings in Australia” by P.E. Joske be deemed to be the defining authority within the Multiple District, in preference to “Roberts Rules of Order.” The decision was taken on the basis that an Australian authority held in high esteem and recognised generally throughout our country is more appropriate and relevant than an authority recognised and acted upon in another country.*

*The decision is reflected each year at each Multiple District Convention by reference to Joske in the Convention Standing Orders. I understand that Joske is the accepted authority for many District Conventions.”*

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