

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – RESOLUTIONS

### **Why can't clubs continue to use a 'show of hands' to count the results of the ballot in clubs? It is costly to photocopy the voting slips for the annual Resolution vote at club meetings.**

When the new resolution process was introduced in 2009 the voting also changed to a secret ballot. As some members feel embarrassed on a 'show of hands' they will often wait to see whose hands go up and then reluctantly follow even though they may wish to vote differently. Having a secret ballot allows members the anonymity to vote on a resolution regardless of how their friends may vote. This also reduces the possibility of voting being affected by influential member/members.

The changes were introduced following the outcome of a series of forums held with members and National and Zone Councillors over a twelve-month period.

The cost of providing the individual voting slips is covered by club funds as a legitimate club expenditure. There is no excuse for any club to refuse to provide each member with their voting slip.

### **What can be done to stimulate members to develop more interest in the resolution process?**

Zone and National Councillors need to ensure that they fully understand the Resolution process and ensure that any information they give to Club Delegates/members is accurate and up to date. A perceived lack of enthusiasm by senior office bearers will be reflected in the enthusiasm of the clubs.

### **What do you believe the resolution process does for VIEW and what do you see as its advantages?**

It gives us, the women of VIEW, the opportunity to be heard, **to help** make a difference in Australian communities.

### **Do Clubs have to send all voting slips to National Office?**

No. However, the Secretary should retain the voting slips until the final results are announced following the Resolution Debate at Convention. They may then be destroyed.

### **Does VIEW provide template letters that we can send to our local and federal politicians?**

Template letters, information about the specific resolution and guidelines on how to approach your local members, NGOs, and other community leaders to inform them of the issues which are important to members of VIEW are available to clubs. Contact your Zone or National Councillor for more information.

### **Is it possible to have more feedback on the outcome of Resolutions?**

Documentation is available through your National Councillor, which shows the 'follow-up' of Resolutions over the past five years. This is updated on a regular basis.

## **We have submitted a successful resolution and now wish to lobby our Local Member. Can we prepare our own letters to send?**

No! Clubs are encouraged to participate in the whole resolution process and are provided with template letters, information about the resolution, and guidelines on how to approach their local members, NGOs, and other community leaders to inform them of the issues which are important to members of VIEW. This process ensures consistent language and messaging across all correspondence.

## **Do we need to vote for all 3 motions or just the one we choose?**

The voting paper allows members to express their preference by voting yes or no on the motions presented at the Club level or debated at the Convention. Members are encouraged to indicate their vote by placing a tick in the appropriate box, either for yes or no. While it's not compulsory to vote for all motions, providing a response in all boxes aids the Resolution Sub-Committee in their follow-up discussions after the Convention.

This feedback is crucial as it helps the Resolution Sub-Committee understand which areas members are most concerned about. It provides valuable insight into the priorities of VIEW and guides decisions on how best to utilise our collective voice for the benefit of the community. By actively participating in the voting process, members play a vital role in shaping the direction and focus of VIEW's advocacy efforts.

## **Do all the resolutions passed at convention go through to be “actioned” or only the top one?**

All the resolutions which are passed at Convention are actioned initially but the main thrust of the follow-up is on the resolution which received the most votes.

However, on occasion Govt action/legislation may pre-empt any campaign which may be planned– as happened in 2011 with two of our resolutions.

Even though the subcommittee concentrates on one main resolution others are not ignored – the subcommittee watch for updates on any resolution which has been submitted/debated and actioned over a five-year period and where appropriate continue to make comment to the relevant authorities.

Clubs are encouraged to participate in this process and will be provided with template letters to personalise on request. All such activity must be done using the template provided in order to ensure consistent messaging on our campaigns.

## **Does VIEW provide template letters that we can send to our local and federal politicians?**

Template letters, information about the specific resolution and guidelines on how to approach your local members, NGOs, and other community leaders to inform them of the issues which are important to members of VIEW are available to clubs. Contact your Zone or National Councillor for more information. Please remember to only use the template letters for consistency of messaging.

## **It appears that the same issues are consistently recurring?**

In 2012, in order to enhance the effectiveness of our Voice and align with our objectives, we proposed a strategic approach focused on key areas of impact. This included directing our efforts towards advocating for resolutions centred on Education, Children, or the interests of Women. By concentrating our attention on these critical issues, we aimed to better communicate our vision, mission, purpose, and guiding principles, ensuring that VIEW's resolutions and subsequent Voice would effectively address key societal concerns and drive meaningful change..

## **What is the National Council process to select motions for debate?**

At the February National Council meeting, National Council, in consultation with recommendations from the Resolution Sub-Committee, will choose up to three motions for debate at the Convention. These motions will then be forwarded to Clubs, where members will have the opportunity to discuss and debate them before voting, either at the club level or following the resolution debate at the National Convention. Extensive research is conducted beforehand to inform the debate, aiding National Councillors in making the final selection. The challenge for National Council lies in ensuring that we consistently pursue resolutions that are impactful and meaningful.

## **What is the process for resolution voting?**

Every VIEW member is able to cast an individual vote in the resolution process, unlike other organisation which only permit delegates to make the final vote. This process reflects the wishes of VIEW members to be able to have their vote counted. All members are encouraged to use this process.

Resolution voting follows a majority rules process, which may sometimes cause confusion among members. The process is as follows:

- Members who are unable to attend the National Convention vote at their respective Clubs on all motions put forward, indicating their preference with a yes or no vote for each motion.
- The Club Secretary or designated Committee Member gathers all votes for all three motions and compiles the numbers on their Club Tally Sheet.
- These tallies are then forwarded to the National Office, where they are recorded for all VIEW Clubs. It's important to note that this process only involves VIEW members who are not attending the National Convention.
- At the National Convention, all attendees have the opportunity to listen to the debate on each motion and vote on all motions presented, marking their preference with a yes or no vote on their ballot.
- The ballots from the National Convention are tallied and then added to the totals from the club vote resulting in an overall count.
- The resolutions are prioritised based on these collective votes, with the motion receiving the highest number of votes becoming the first resolution.
- Ultimately, it is the collective vote of the clubs showing interest in the resolution process, combined with the votes from the National Convention, that determines the final priority of resolutions.