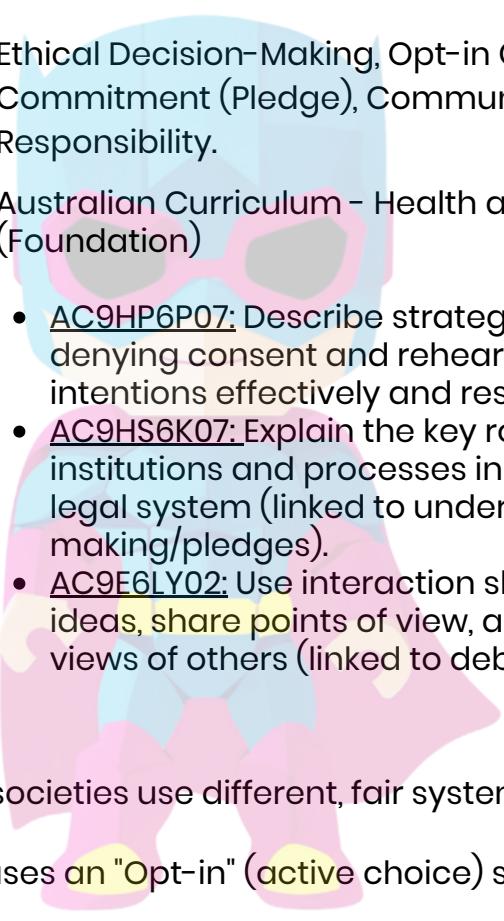


# The Ethical Pledge: Making a Choice

(Year 6 - Ages 11-12):

## Lesson 6 of 9

### Lesson Overview

Lesson Title:	The Ethical Pledge: Making a Choice
Year Level:	Year 6 (Ages 11-12)
Lesson Duration:	60 minutes
Key Focus Areas:	Ethical Decision-Making, Opt-in Consent Systems, Personal Commitment (Pledge), Communication, and Civic Responsibility.
Curriculum Links:	Australian Curriculum - Health and Physical Education (Foundation)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>AC9HP6P07</u>: Describe strategies for seeking, giving or denying consent and rehearse how to communicate their intentions effectively and respectfully.</li><li>• <u>AC9HS6K07</u>: Explain the key roles and responsibilities of key institutions and processes in Australia's democracy and legal system (linked to understanding systems of decision-making/pledges).</li><li>• <u>AC9E6LY02</u>: Use interaction skills... to explore and build on ideas, share points of view, and listen to and respond to the views of others (linked to debating choice systems).</li></ul>

### Learning Intentions

- Understand that different societies use different, fair systems for making big decisions (Opt-in vs. Opt-out).
- Investigate why Australia uses an "Opt-in" (active choice) system for organ and tissue donation.
- Define a "pledge" as a serious, active, and ethical commitment to a set of values.
- Recognise that the most crucial step in the Hero's Pledge is sharing it with family (the reason why 8/10 families say yes when they know the wish).

### Success Criteria

- Explain the difference between an "Opt-in" and an "Opt-out" system using a simple example.
- Identify that Australia requires an active choice to become a donor (the Opt-in Pledge).
- Articulate one reason why sharing their pledge with family is essential to ensuring their wish is honoured.
- Create a personal pledge that reflects their values and plan one action to share that pledge.



# Teaching Sequence

Work through this lesson in the following sequence:

Duration	Part	Focus
10 minutes	Part A: The Pledge Hook	Introduction, defining Pledge (ethical commitment), and setting up the Metaphor.
20 minutes	Part B: The Community Choice	Interactive Activity: Exploring the Opt-in vs. Opt-out systems in a safe, non-threatening classroom context.
15 minutes	Part C: The Australian System	Connecting the Opt-in choice to the Hero's Pledge and the critical importance of the Master Key (L5 Review).
15 minutes	Part D: My Ethical Pledge	Worksheet Activity: Students define their personal Pledge and reflect on the necessity of communication.

## Part A: The Pledge Hook (10 minutes)

### Step 1. Review and Introduction

- Say: "We know the conversation is the Master Key (L5). Today, we ask: What is the Choice that conversation is about? We define it as the Hero's Pledge—a serious, ethical commitment."

### Step 2. Defining a Pledge

- Ask students: "What is an important pledge you know (e.g., the school oath, the Olympic oath)? What makes it serious?" (It's a promise to live by certain values.)
- Say: "The donor decision is the ultimate act of pledging your kindness to the community."

## Part B: The Community Choice (20 minutes)

### Step 1. Scenario 1: Opt-in (Active Choice)

- Display the "Opt-in" poster. Read the scenario card (e.g., Joining the Kindness Club requires signing the YES list). Ask students to take the active step (e.g., standing up to 'sign up'). Tally the results.

### Step 2. Scenario 2: Opt-out (Active Removal)

- Display the "Opt-out" poster. Read the scenario (e.g., Everyone is in the club unless they sign the NO list). Ask students to take the active step to leave. Tally the results.



### Step 3. Class Discussion

- Compare the two systems. Ask: "Were both fair? Why did the numbers change?"
- Guide them: Both are fair consent methods, but one requires action to join, and one requires action to leave.

### Part C: The Australian System (15 minutes)

#### Step 1. The Australian Pledge

- Say: "When it comes to the Hero's Pledge in Australia, our country uses the Opt-in system. What does that mean?" (It means you must actively choose to be a donor; it's not automatic.)

#### Step 2. The Master Key Link (Worksheet Activity 3)

- Say: "The fact that our system is Opt-in is the final proof for the Master Key (L5). Why?" (Because the family needs certainty for the choice you actively made.) Students complete the analysis in Activity 3, linking the Opt-in system to the critical need for communication.

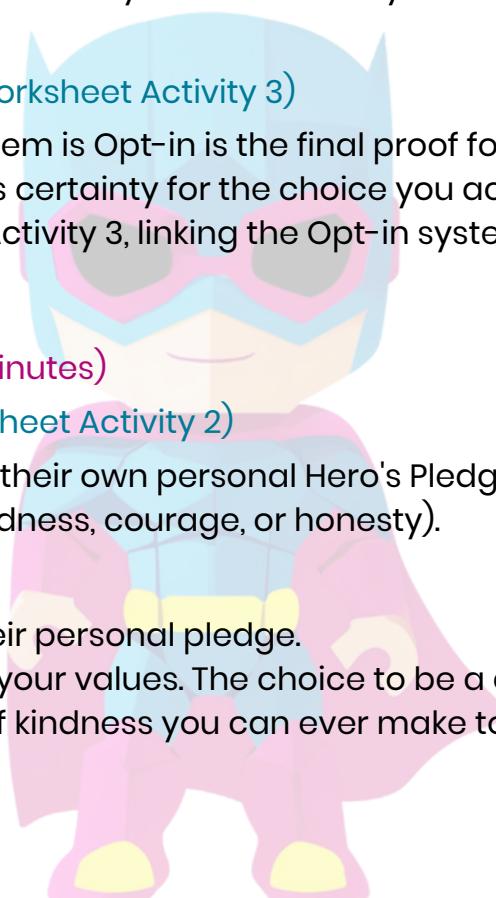
### Part D: My Ethical Pledge (15 minutes)

#### Step 1. Personal Pledge (Worksheet Activity 2)

- Students reflect and write their own personal Hero's Pledge in the scroll template. (Focus on personal values like kindness, courage, or honesty).

#### Step 2. Final Reflection

- Ask volunteers to share their personal pledge.
- Say: "Your pledge is about your values. The choice to be a donor is one of the most powerful, active pledges of kindness you can ever make to the world."



## Differentiated Learning

- Extension:
  - Challenge students to write a short paragraph explaining the ethical reasoning behind why they personally prefer the Opt-in system for a complex decision like donation.
- Learning Support:
  - Work with a small group, focusing on the vocabulary. Use drawings or simple sentence completion to define "Opt-in" and "Opt-out" on the worksheet.

## Teacher Reflection

- Did the activity successfully make the concept of consent systems clear and engaging? Did students grasp the link between active choice (Opt-in) and the Master Key (communication)?

## Assessment

- Worksheet (Activity 1): Assess the explanation of the difference between Opt-in and Opt-out.
- Worksheet (Activity 3): Assess the explanation of why sharing an Opt-in Pledge is critical for the family.

## Additional Notes:

This lesson concludes the second major curriculum block (L5-L6: Communication and Ethical Choice). It is an adaptation of a complex civics topic, designed to empower Year 6 students with the understanding that the Australian donation system requires a responsible, active, and personal choice (The Ethical Pledge). The language must remain focused on civics, ethical choices, and communication skills, not on medical details.

