

The Ethical Pledge: Making a Choice

(Year 6 - Ages 11-12):

Lesson 6 of 9

Lesson Summary

This 60-minute lesson adapts the senior curriculum's challenging theme of "Debating Consent Systems" (Opt-in vs. Opt-out) into an age-appropriate exploration of making choices and public commitments (pledges). Students will participate in "The Community Choice Challenge," where they analyze two different, fair systems for joining a new school initiative (e.g., a Kindness Club). They will learn that Australia uses the "Opt-in" system for donation (you must actively choose and record your wish). This activity frames the donor decision as a Hero's Pledge—a mature, ethical commitment that requires intentional action and, most importantly, sharing that decision (the Master Key) with family.

Learning Intentions

Students will

- 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

Students can

- 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.

Lesson Details

Time:	60 minutes
Year Level:	Year 6 (Ages 11-12)
Unit:	This is Lesson 6 of 9 in the series.
Educational Partner:	This lesson is adapted from resources provided by DonateLife

General Capabilities

Ethical Decision-Making, Consent Systems (Opt-in), Personal Commitment, and Civics.



Curriculum Mapping and Links

Australian Curriculum (v9.0)

Subject	Strand	Content Descriptor
Health and Physical Education (HPE)	Personal, Social and Community Health	<u>AC9HP6P07</u> : Describe strategies for seeking, giving or denying consent and rehearse how to communicate their intentions effectively and respectfully.
HASS (Civics & Citizenship)	Knowledge and Understanding	<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).
English	Literacy	<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).

Queensland Curriculum (QCAA)

Subject	Syllabus	Content Description
Health and Physical Education (HPE)	Year 6	Describe strategies for seeking, giving or denying consent effectively and respectfully.
HASS (Civics & Citizenship)	Year 6	How individuals and groups contribute to the communities to which they belong, and how decisions are made (linked to collective vs. individual choice systems).
English	Year 6	Listen to and contribute to conversations and discussions to share information and ideas, interacting and responding to the views of others.



Resources Required

- Whiteboard or smartboard.
- Resource: "Community Choice Scenario Cards" (Two cards: one explaining a new school rule using Opt-in method; one using Opt-out method).
- Resource: "Opt-in/Opt-out" Label posters (A large area for two columns to display class votes).
- Student Worksheet: "My Ethical Pledge."
- Optional Hook: A simple image or story about a famous pledge or commitment (e.g., the Olympic Oath).

Skills

- Ethical Reasoning (Comparing two fair systems).
- Critical Thinking (Analyzing the consequences of active vs. passive choice).
- Decision-Making (Understanding the finality of a personal choice/pledge).
- Communication and Justification.

Teacher Preparation

- Prepare The Community Choice Challenge: Create the two scenario cards (Resource Required). The scenarios should be identical, only the method of commitment changes. (Example: Rule 1 - Everyone is in the club unless they sign the 'No Thanks' list (Opt-out). Rule 2 - No one is in the club unless they sign the 'Join Now' list (Opt-in)).
- Core Metaphor: The donor decision is a "Hero's Pledge"—a serious, conscious promise reflecting their heroic values.
- Key Link: Be prepared to explicitly link the Opt-in method to the Master Key (L5). The reason we must actively choose (Opt-in) is because the conversation with family is the most critical step.

Additional Information

This lesson takes the most challenging ethical debate from the senior curriculum (consent systems) and translates it into a concrete Year 6 activity about choice and responsibility. It concludes the second major block of the unit (L5-L6: Communication and Ethical Choice), setting the stage for future lessons focused on the people involved (Donor Families and Recipients). The lesson powerfully reinforces that the Australian way is an active, personal choice that must be communicated.

