

AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE'S GRAND JURY

JURISDICTION:

This Grand Jury is a Common Law Grand Jury not subject to legislation from Parliament. It is composed of laymen who are Australian citizens.

Serving on an Australian People's Grand Jury is voluntary.

Its primary function is to determine whether the evidence provided to them, or on their own knowledge, warrants the return of charges for one or more offences, ie: they can either return an indictment or a presentment.

PROCEDURE:

1. Empanel grand jurors by swearing in.
2. Foreman presides.
3. Any grand juror may ask questions of witnesses and do anything they feel necessary to satisfy them individually as grand jurors as to the merits or lack of merits of any presentment made to them.
4. They should indict if they find probable cause, ie: declare a "true bill"..
5. Grand Jurors have a two-fold purpose: (a) protect citizens against frivolous or ill-founded charges, (b) protect citizens of Australia if someone should be brought to trial.
6. They are not concerned with the ultimate guilt or innocence of a person who is charged with a crime because that issue would be tried by a petit jury of twelve men and women.

REQUIREMENT OF RECORDING:

Recordation and its transcription are discretionary.

VOTING ON PROPOSED INDICTMENT:

Grand jurors are not required to vote separately on each count of an indictment. They only vote on the indictment as a whole.

IMMUNITY:

No one is immune from a jury.

