



Political engagement: Three Levels of Government

Learning intentions

This activity is a deep dive into the three levels of government in Australia and an exploration of how responsibilities are distributed across them. Students will have the opportunity to develop a better understanding of the many people who represent them and who can support positive change.

Several of the three levels of government cards apply to multiple areas of government responsibility, so it is not particularly clean-cut where each belongs. For example, roads can be a state or local government responsibility, depending on whether we are talking about local roads or highways. This activity is designed to encourage healthy, respectful discussion among students.

Activity overview

Students will have an opportunity to review 20 illustrated three levels of government cards, with a mixture of national, state and local government responsibilities presented on them. They will need to work in small groups to categorise the three levels of government cards and share their reasoning.

Materials

- Three levels of government cards (double-sided printing recommended).

Activity outline

- 1 Introduce the three levels of government activity by showing students an example of local government responsibility, such as a dog park, a swimming pool or an art centre. Ask them to share who they think is responsible for managing it – federal, state or local government. Encourage students to share their reasoning.
- 2 Organise students into groups of between two and five. Provide each group with a set of three levels of government cards to explore and categorise in their groups.
- 3 As a whole class, ask each group to discuss how they organised their cards.
- 4 Once you have visited all, or a selection of groups, work together to reorganise a set of the three levels of government cards into federal, state and local responsibilities.

Extension activity

Using blank hexagon cards, encourage students to draw additional areas of federal, state and local government responsibility they know of. As a group, students may then discuss where these new hexagon cards fit.

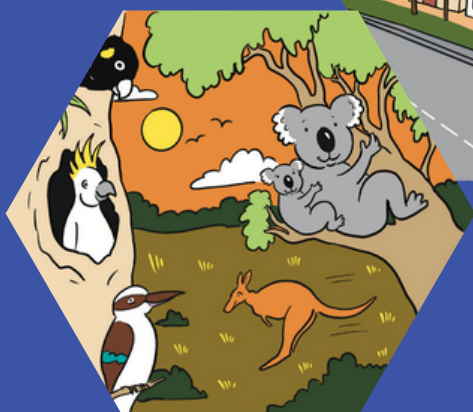
MUSEUM OF
AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY



OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE



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Currency

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX



Trade

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX



Foreign Affairs

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX



Cyber security

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX



National Parks

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX



Postal services

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX



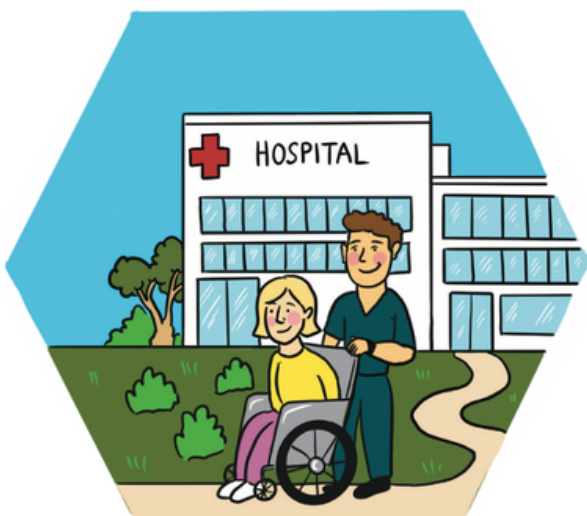
Reconciliation

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Education

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Hospitals

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Wildlife

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Tourism

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Housing

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Roads

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Recycling

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Parks

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Libraries

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Dog parks

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Waste collection

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Swimming pools

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Arts centres

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Local

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX

Local

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX

State

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX

State

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX

Federal

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX

Federal

DEMOCRACY IN A BOX

