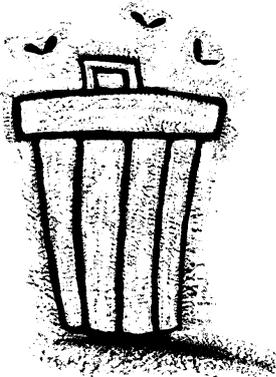


AUSTRALIA'S THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT



In Australia there are three levels of government:

- Local;
- State; and
- Federal.

Each level of government:

- holds elections;
- makes laws for citizens;
- is responsible for providing public goods and services; and
- punishes those who break the laws.

Each level of government has particular responsibilities.



Local government is responsible for providing services within their local area.

These include:

- maintenance of roads and footpaths;
- garbage collection;
- town planning and building regulations;
- infant welfare centres and child care centres;
- meals on wheels;
- libraries; and
- maintenance of parks and gardens and swimming pools.

State government is responsible for:

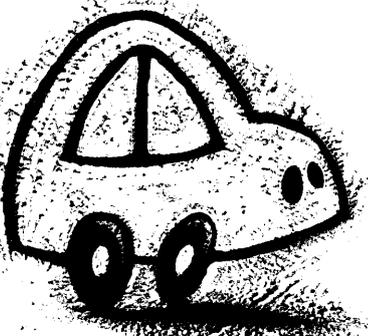
- education: government primary and secondary schools, curriculum and assessment, coordination of higher education;
- health: public hospitals, nursing services, ambulance services, coordination of aged care, children's, youth, mental and community health services;
- transport: public transport, major roads, vehicle registration, transport accident insurance;



- state development: encouraging investment, employee relations, employment, workers' compensation, information technology, sport, recreation, racing and gaming, tourism;
- natural resources and environment: agricultural development, electricity and gas supply, water supply and sewerage, forestry, land management, conservation and environment protection, national parks;
- law and order: courts and tribunals, legal aid, police, prisons;
- community services: disability services, child protection, adoption;
- housing: public housing, rental assistance;
- fair trading and consumer affairs; and
- fire and emergency services.

Federal government is responsible for:

- defence;
- foreign policy;
- immigration;
- trade and commerce;
- airports and air safety;
- post and telecommunications;
- employment and unemployment strategies;
- national public works;
- social services such as pensions and family support;
- Medicare and health funding;
- post-secondary education; and
- currency.





Classroom discussion

Discuss the answers to the following questions in class.

What would happen if...

- there was no rubbish collection?
- there were no health regulations for restaurants?
- roads were not maintained?
- Australia didn't have a defence force?
- there were no dog or cat regulations?
- there were no public libraries?
- each State government produced its own coins?
- there were no laws against criminal behaviour?
- there were no plans or protection for the environment?
- there were no building regulations?
- people could migrate to Australia without first making an application?