



## ACTIVITY 1

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

Read the content for this topic then answer the following questions to see how much you understand about what you read.

1. How old do Australian citizens have to be before they can vote?
2. True or False – There are two levels of Government in Australia.
3. How do governments raise money to pay for the services they provide?
4. What is another name for the House of Representatives?
5. A Chief Minister is the leader of:-
  - a. Australia
  - b. The State of Victoria
  - c. The Northern Territory
6. Which level of government is responsible for passports?
7. How many senators from each State make up the Upper House?
8. A councillor is an elected representative at which level of government?
9. What is the name given to the set of rules that govern Australia?
10. What does the acronym COAG stand for?



## ACTIVITY 2

### TOWN HALL DETECTIVE

Town halls are a symbol of local government and were among the first public buildings constructed in our State's capital cities.

They are multi-purpose buildings used for large public gatherings, civic, political and cultural events

Offices of the local government are located there along with Council chambers.

Match the images of the town halls with the capital city (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart) and the brief description of them.

This City Hall was opened on 8 April 1930. It is located adjacent to King George Square, where the rectangular City Hall has its main entrance. It has an imposing 70 m clock tower.

This Town Hall is a landmark sandstone building whose steps are a popular meeting place. Built in the 1880s, it stands opposite the Queen Victoria Building and alongside St Andrew's Cathedral.

Located on the corner of Swanston and Collins Streets, this Town Hall was officially opened in 1870. The building is topped by Prince Alfred's Tower. The original organ was destroyed by fire in 1925.

The scene of many special occasions and events since 1866, this Town Hall once included police cells and court room. This historical two-storey building is made from local stone and Tasmanian blackwood and Huon pine.

Officially opened in 1866 this Town Hall with its regal clock tower and imposing Victorian era presence stands as a grand landmark heritage building and a prime feature on King William Street. It is one of the world's greatest acoustic venues for symphonic concerts.





## ACTIVITY 3

### WHICH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT?

Indicate which level of government you would contact in each of the following situations.

Situation	Local	State/ Territory	Federal
You are unemployed and want to apply for unemployment benefits.			
You want to make a claim to Medicare for medical expenses.			
You want the facilities at your school improved.			
You want to obtain a parking permit.			
Your rubbish wasn't collected on rubbish day			
You want to submit a passport application.			
Your local secondary school wants to build a new computer centre.			
You are unhappy about aircraft noise in your area.			
You want to join the Armed Forces.			
There are potholes in your road.			
You have a query about income tax.			
You want to know when your broadband will be updated.			
You want to find out how your elderly grandmother can obtain meals on wheels			
You want to make a donation to the Ambulance service.			
You are campaigning for a new sports ground to be built in your area.			



## ACTIVITY 4

### WORDS AT WORK

In Wordy News this week we defined the word INFRASTRUCTURE which was used in the following way:

**LABOR – NO  
BLACKMAIL**

*But infrastructure spend looks pretty slim*

The prefix **INFRA** meaning below can be found in a number of words.

Use the clues below to complete the word list.

- Infra** \_ \_ \_ relating to the range of invisible radiation wavelengths
- Infra** \_ \_ \_ to break a law, violate, or infringe
- Infra** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ less than human
- Infra** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ using waves with frequencies below that of audible sound
- Infra** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ cannot be broken or separated; unbreakable
- Infra** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ occurring within a species
- Infra** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ the basic features of a system or organization.

Write a sentence for each word to show its meaning.



## ACTIVITY 5

### CHECK IT OUT

The website [www.parliament.curriculum.edu.au](http://www.parliament.curriculum.edu.au) provides a simple glossary of terms relating to government.

Find the words in the word find that match these meanings.

- Group of senior ministers, appointed by the governing party, with responsibility for implementing and administering government policy.
- The joining of two or more political parties to form government or opposition.
- A document outlining the general legal framework or rules for government.
- A form of rule in which the government is elected by, and accountable to, the people.
- A contest in which candidates are chosen to be representatives of an electorate by voters.
- A geographical division or area from which Members of Parliament are elected.
- A body of people responsible for governing a society.
- The record of parliamentary debates and proceedings.
- The major party or coalition of parties in a two-party system that does not command the majority in the Lower House of a parliament.
- A representative assembly that is constitutionally empowered to make laws within a given jurisdiction
- A vote in which citizens have a direct say on an issue.
- The leader of the party that forms the government in the Lower House of a State parliament. See also Chief Minister.
- The Upper House of the Australian Parliament, also known as the 'House of Review'

P	C	O	A	L	I	T	I	O	N	P	P
Y	O	P	P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N	P
C	N	P	G	P	E	P	P	P	O	P	
A	S	P	O	P	N	P	P	P	P	I	P
R	T	P	V	C	A	B	I	N	E	T	R
C	I	P	E	P	T	P	P	P	P	C	E
O	T	P	R	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	I
M	U	D	N	E	R	E	F	E	R	L	M
E	T	P	M	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E
D	I	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R
P	O	T	N	E	M	A	I	L	R	A	P
P	N	E	T	A	R	O	T	C	E	L	E



## ACTIVITY 6

### NEWS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

#### FACES IN THE NEWS

When reading stories in the newspaper about government and politics it helps to know who's who.

Here are some photos of well-known people in politics.

Write down their name, their position and the political party they belong to.

