

Australian Levels of Government

Watch the video from this link to learn about the three levels of government:

[The Three Levels of Government](#) (2:26 mins)



Fill in the sections below by taking notes as you view the video.

Try to pick up as much information as you can as it will help you answer questions after that.

FEDERAL

STATE

LOCAL

What part of Australia is each level of the government responsible for?

Include examples with your answers.

Federal _____

State _____

Local _____



Complete this table by listing as many responsibilities as you can for each government level

FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL

Why does the State government look after areas such as roads, hospitals, and education when *everyone* across Australia uses these services and facilities?

What is a tax and why do all levels of government collect it?



Complete the following table with information that shows where each government level collects taxes from, and where that money is spent for the benefit of Australian citizens.

FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL

Explain which level of government is responsible for each of these areas. There may be more than one level involved. Provide reasons for your answer.

Roads and Transport



Defence Force





Immigration and Customs

Living at the Local Level

Local councils are responsible for providing services and facilities in your local area. They also present an opportunity for citizens to get involved in the decision-making process regarding things that are happening in the community. Anyone can become a member of a council as they are elected by the people who live in that area, every four years.

Maintenance of roads is mostly funded by the state level; however, councils are also responsible for this area. A good guide for remembering what councils are responsible for is 'The three Rs' – *rates, roads, and rubbish!*

Australia has 537 councils, and around 60% of these are regional councils.
The first local government established in Australia was in Adelaide in 1840.

Investigate information from primary sources to answer these questions:

1. What is the smallest council by area in Australia? _____

2. What is the largest council by area? _____

3. What is Australia's largest council by population? _____

Find the meaning of these terms:

- Shire* _____
- Municipality* _____
- Territory* _____
- Regional* _____
- Rural* _____
- Public* _____
- Private* _____

Link into this website from *Parliament of New South Wales* [Roles and Responsibilities of Government](#) to investigate what each level of government can do for you as you go about your day to day activities (if you live in another state, you can still use this website as the levels of government are the same including the services and facilities, or very similar).

Use the information you discover to answer the following questions. How do different levels of government impact the way you:

1. Get dressed in the morning? _____

2. Have your breakfast? _____

3. Get to school? _____

4. Play sport – for school or on the weekends? _____

5. Go to the doctor? _____

6. Put out the garbage? _____

Choose one important service a local council provides and discuss with a partner what would happen in a community if that service was no longer provided. Present a report to the class.



Health and Safety – food inspection services



Waste and Recycling Services

Test your knowledge with this interactive game from the Parliamentary Education Office [Federal State and Local Game](#)