

Be an Active Participant

Did you know?

All citizens over the age of 18 years can have a say in how Australia is governed?

Australia is a democracy. This means that Australian citizens hold the power of government.

In fact, it is an important responsibility for citizens to be actively engaged in the decision-making process for their community, and to know what action can be taken if they need to inform the government of anything that may concern them.

If you are a citizen of Australia, you get to participate in activities that can determine how Australia is governed.



Constituents are citizens who live in an electorate and can elect a representative to a legislative body

A citizen is a legally recognised subject of a state or commonwealth



An electorate is an area which has constituents who are entitled to vote in an election



*An electorate has constituents who vote for a candidate to represent the community's interests in parliament, at both federal and state levels.
Only Australian citizens can vote.*



If citizens are not satisfied with the work their representatives are doing, then they get to vote for someone else at the next election!

However, if a citizen can't wait that long, then they can communicate any concerns they have through different ways, either directly to their parliamentary representative, via social media, or write to a newspaper.

Sometimes a representative just needs a reminder about how they can best support everyone living in the community they serve.

There are many ways you can communicate your concerns to the relevant representative in government for the area you live in.



Think about what is happening in your local community today, such as recent or proposed building works, an increase in costs for a service or facility, or an environmental issue.

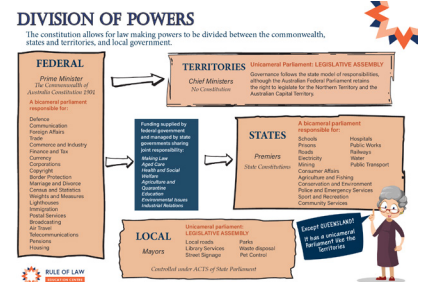
You may even be able to identify a facility, or service that you would like to see changed, improved, or introduced in your community. Perhaps you know of a service that has been stopped, or a facility taken away.

Tap into other members of your community to see what their thoughts and opinions are about what they think could be improved. Then, write to your parliamentary representative explaining what you would like to see changed or improved, for the benefit of your local community.

This link might be helpful! [How to Petition the Council](#)

In order to know which government agency to contact, you will need to investigate whether the matter you have chosen falls under a federal or state responsibility.

To help with your task, follow this link and discover how the **division of powers** shows which responsibilities are shared between the different levels of government.



The Division of Powers