

It's all about human rights



Human rights are protected when a society's laws are made and applied fairly.

The rule of law is a set of principles that support human rights for all individuals living in a society

Australia's system of governance is based on principles that uphold the rule of law.

This ensures that everyone's rights are protected.



This is called the rule of law

In Australian society, human rights are upheld through these mechanisms:

Everyone is treated equally. No one is above the law. Every citizen, including the rulers, lawmakers, judges, and police are equally subject to the laws of the land.

The rule of law provides individuals with rights that cannot be easily taken away.

In a democracy, systems are put in place to protect citizens from leaders who engage in arbitrary rule. The rule of law places limits on government authority through checks and balances

The laws are made in an open and transparent way.

The laws deliver justice through an independent judiciary to maintain fairness.

Citizens can only be sent to jail if they have broken the law.

Laws are made through a legislature, where members are elected by the people.


Living in a system that upholds the rule of law benefits everyone



Now you have an idea about how human rights are supported in Australian governance through the rule of law.

This table shows each mechanism matched with a description. Your task is to design a symbol or icon that represents each mechanism.



MECHANISM	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL
Everyone is treated equally. No one is above the law	Australian law applies to everyone, regardless of who they are. Disputes between citizens and the state can only be determined by the courts.	
The rule of law provides individuals with rights that cannot be easily taken away	The constitution protects individual rights by providing mechanisms which support citizens living in Australian society. One very important example of this includes being able to vote representatives into the parliament.	
The rule of law places limits on government authority through checks and balances	The separation of powers ensures accountability between the parliament, executive council, and the judiciary.	
The laws are made in an open and transparent way	The Constitution sets the foundation for law-making to support human rights. Proposed laws are checked and refined between the House of Representatives and the Senate.	
Australian laws deliver justice through an independent judiciary	The Judiciary is one of three branches of power. Judges interpret and make decisions in accordance with the law.	
Citizens can only be sent to jail if they have broken the law	All citizens know their responsibilities. No one is punished unless a clear breach of the law has been determined and proven in a court.	
Laws are made through a legislature, where members are elected by the people	The people of a nation have a say in who will govern them. Compulsory voting is free for citizens over the age of 18 years with universal adult suffrage.	