



VERSION 2- 2021

Student Resource Book

Years 7/8



**THE DIVISION OF POWERS BETWEEN LOCAL,
STATE/TERRITORY AND FEDERAL LEVELS
OF GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA (ACHCK048)**

Module 1

THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

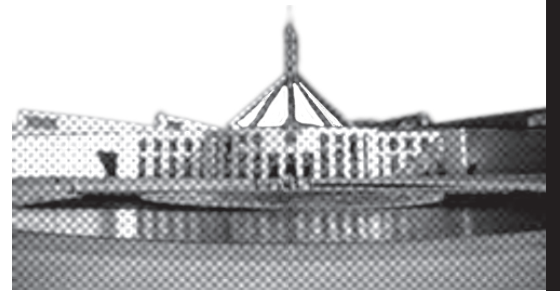
Do you realise many aspects of your daily life as a young person growing up in Western Australia are made better, controlled or restricted by different governments? Where you can throw a ball, how much a train ticket costs and what movies you are allowed to see are all decided by three different levels of government. Living in Western Australia, the biggest state in the country means that many laws have been made to make our lives better. These laws are made by three different levels of government, each one having separate responsibilities.

The third level of government, which make laws at a local level, is known as **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**. This level of government is responsible for making sure rubbish bins are emptied from homes and parks and that pets are controlled properly, along with lots of other issues that affect your local community on a day-to-day basis.



The second level is **STATE PARLIAMENT**, which has responsibility for any laws within each individual state (or territory) that are not exclusively covered by the Australian Constitution. The Parliament of Western Australia for example can pass laws on hospitals, schools and any other services that are not the sole responsibility of the federal Parliament.

Finally, the first level is the **FEDERAL PARLIAMENT**, which passes laws relating to the entire country of Australia, such as defence and immigration. In some cases, certain areas of responsibility may be covered by both state and federal Parliaments. When this occurs federal law has the power to overrule state law.



TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL



If the bins were never emptied and the dog's left running wild

You might get a little angry, perhaps a little riled

If your parks were always overgrown and the local pool left dirty

You'd be angry at your council, perhaps a little shirty

Local government is important for yourself and for your mates

This third level of government you get by paying rates

And what if schools weren't open and we didn't have police?

There'd be nowhere that we could learn and no-one to keep the peace

And what about a fire with no one to put it out?

Or no nurses in our hospitals? You'd have a right to shout

'We all pay state taxes, how is our money spent?'

That's the job of the second tier, we call state government

The first tier is called federal, making laws for all the nation

For defence and also airports and even immigration

This government has its members, drawn throughout the land

Representing the whole country, is how this place was planned

So each tier is elected, by a majority

And you can vote them in and vote them out, it's called democracy

So be glad your bin is empty, your local pool is clean

The third tier, local government is right there on the scene

Be glad your school is open and there's teachers paid to teach

The second tier, state government is right within your reach

And be glad we have a Parliament that ties us all as one

The first tier Federal Government is where our country's run.

REVISION QUESTIONS



WHICH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR...

emptying rubbish bins, ensuring your local pool is clean and maintaining your local parks and gardens?

WHICH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR...

making sure we have enough teachers, police, firefighters, doctors and nurses?

WHICH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR...

defence, airports and immigration?

THE PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA IS PART OF WHICH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT?

READ THE FOLLOWING STORY AND IDENTIFY WHICH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH ISSUE PRINTED IN BOLD!



Elsie and Ellay awoke to a loud banging on the door. The ranger had dropped in to tell them that their pet dog Winston had been **CAUGHT IN THE PARK WITHOUT A LEASH AND THAT MUM WOULD HAVE TO PAY A FINE IN ORDER TO GET HIM BACK.**

1



Winston had escaped when a worker from Synergy had let himself in the gate to **READ THE POWER METER.**

2



When their Mum had returned home from **PAYING A BILL AT THE AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE,**

Elsie and Ellay were both given bus fares to go to the park. **'DON'T FORGET YOUR SMART RIDERS'**, called their Mum, as they ran out the door.

3



When they got to the park, they had planned to kick the football before reading a sign that said **'ALL BALL GAMES STRICTLY PROHIBITED'**.

4



Instead, Elsie and Ellay decided to go to the cinema. Upon entering the movies they were told that **DUE TO THEIR AGE IT WAS AGAINST THE LAW FOR THEM TO SEE THE MA CLASSIFIED** horror movie set in a pet store, entitled 'When Pollies Go Bad'.



Although Elsie and Ellay seemed to be having a bad day, it could have been a whole lot worse. The park where they had been planning to kick the football around was now under flames after a passing motorist had thrown a lit cigarette out of his window. **THE MOTORIST WAS CHARGED ...**

... and **FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES WERE STILL PUTTING OUT THE FIRE.**



Although it had not been the best day, Elsie and Ellay decided to head home as they were looking forward to the arrival of their two cousins, Rodney and Macey, who were flying in that evening. They were meant to land the day before, however there had been a mechanical issue with the plane in Bali. **AUSTRALIA'S CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY HAD THEREFORE SAID THE PLANE COULD NOT ENTER AUSTRALIA UNTIL THE PROBLEM WAS FIXED.**

Elsie and Ellay's mum had also said that they would have to **PASS THROUGH IMMIGRATION AT THE PERTH AIRPORT** and then may be further delayed with the **ROADWORKS ON TONKIN HIGHWAY.**

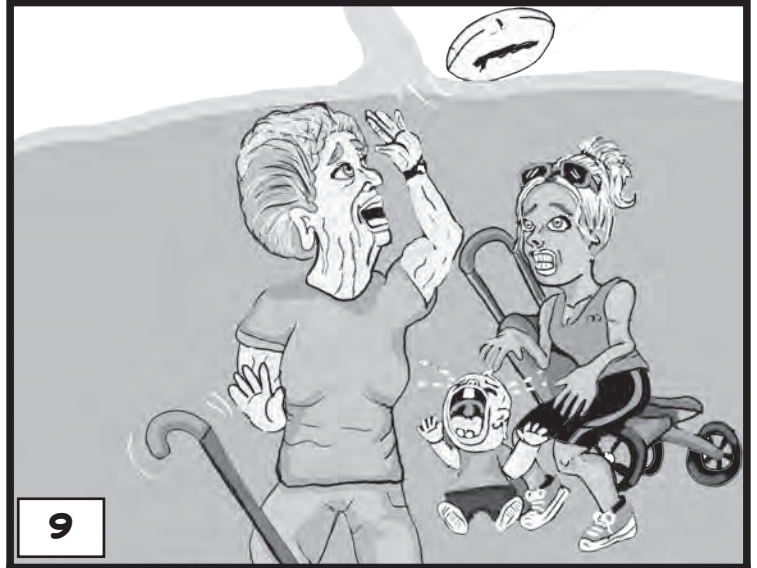
The day had certainly not gone to plan, however when Macey and Rodney finally arrived, Elsie and Ellay could not have been happier.



They also found out later that the movie they had been prohibited from seeing had caused some viewers nightmares, so it was probably just as well they had been protected from seeing it.



Winston had returned from the local pound after Mum had paid the fine. The ranger also reminded her that if Winston was left to roam around the neighbourhood, he could be hit by a car or may bite someone.



Sure, they hadn't been able to kick the football in the park, but as a shared space where senior citizens walk and a playgroup visits, the sisters realised it was an important safety issue.

Best of all, their local park had been saved by the Fire and Emergency Services' quick response in putting out the flames. To top off the positives, their cousins had arrived safely thanks to the rules making sure the planes flying in and out of Australia are in good condition.



'Sometimes all these laws can seem like a real hassle', said Elsie, 'but when you think about it, they also help in keeping us safe'.