

The three levels of government flashcards

This set of cards can be used in different ways to explore the concept of three levels of government—local, state and federal—and what services and responsibilities each level of government manages.

The levels listed in the key to the right represent the level of government which has the most authority for the particular service or responsibility. For some services and responsibilities, such as tax, education, and parks and gardens, the management can be more complex as different levels of government may manage different elements of the service. Explanations of the different levels of government can be found on the following page, or on the education section of Parliament of Victoria's website (see link below).

Before you begin using the cards, you may like to ask students the following questions:

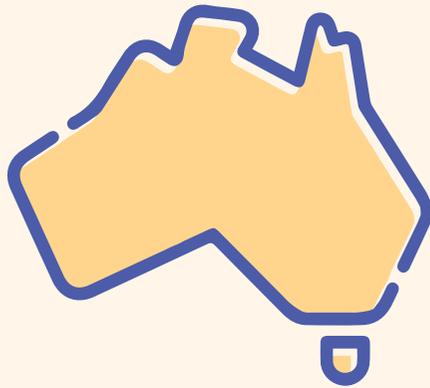
- What is government?
- What are the three levels of government?
- Why might we have three levels of government?
- What do you think local, state, and federal governments do?

As a starting activity you might like to have students categorise the cards into the different levels of government and provide reasons for why the chosen level of government is responsible for that service. After completing this task, students could complete a SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis on different services and make an argument for whether the service should be the responsibility of a different level of government.

For more details about the levels of government and ways to use these cards in your civics and citizenship program, please visit new.parliament.vic.gov.au/vicparled

Key

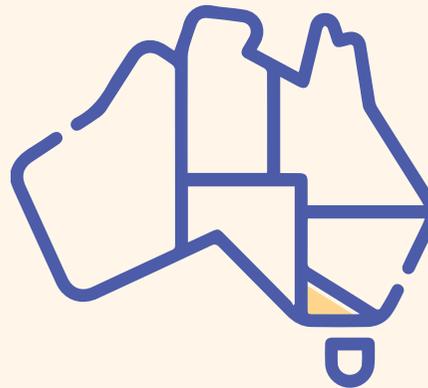
- 1 *Trains: State*
- 2 *Marriage: Federal*
- 3 *School crossing: Local*
- 4 *Police: State*
- 5 *Foreign affairs: Federal*
- 6 *Culture festivals: Local*
- 7 *Import/export: Federal*
- 8 *Museum: State*
- 9 *Schools: State*
- 10 *Building permits: Local*
- 11 *University: Federal*
- 12 *Recycling: Local*
- 13 *Roads: State*
- 14 *Internet: Federal*
- 15 *Parking: Local*
- 16 *Pet registration: Local*
- 17 *Driver's license: State*
- 18 *Airport: Federal*
- 19 *Buses: State*
- 20 *Hospitals: State*
- 21 *Tax: Federal*
- 22 *Water: State*
- 23 *Libraries: Local*
- 24 *Parks and gardens: Local*
- 25 *Waste: State*
- 26 *Armed forces: Federal*
- 27 *Public holidays: State*
- 28 *Kindergartens: State*
- 29 *Immigration: Federal*
- 30 *Swimming pools: Local*



Federal

The Federal Parliament has power over services and matters that affect the whole country. Section 51 of the Australian Constitution gives the Australian Parliament exclusive powers, such as defence, foreign policy, currency, airports and communications. Only the Federal Parliament can make laws about these matters. However, there are some powers which are concurrent, meaning that both Federal and State parliament can make laws about these matters, for example taxation.

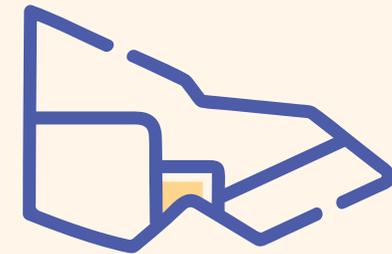
www.peo.gov.au



State

The state Parliament has the power to make laws on all matters that are not exclusively the responsibility of the Federal Parliament. These areas include health, agriculture, conservation, road safety, car registration, ambulance services, water, gas, and law and order. Sometimes the state or territory can choose to hand over (refer) a power to the Commonwealth. Or sometimes the Commonwealth may give the states money for particular services and instruct how the states should spend it, for example spending on education, health and transport.

www.parliament.vic.gov.au



Local

The local government, called city and shire councils, are usually responsible for garbage collections, local parks and gardens, libraries, swimming pools and sporting facilities. What the local government is and isn't responsible for is decided by state parliament. State parliament can decide to give local governments more or less power, or may even in some circumstances take a local government's role for a period of time. This is because local government has no constitutional independence. Local councils make local laws, but these laws cannot duplicate or contradict a federal or state law.

www.vic.gov.au/know-your-council

Parliament
of Victoria

1



Trains

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2



Marriage

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3

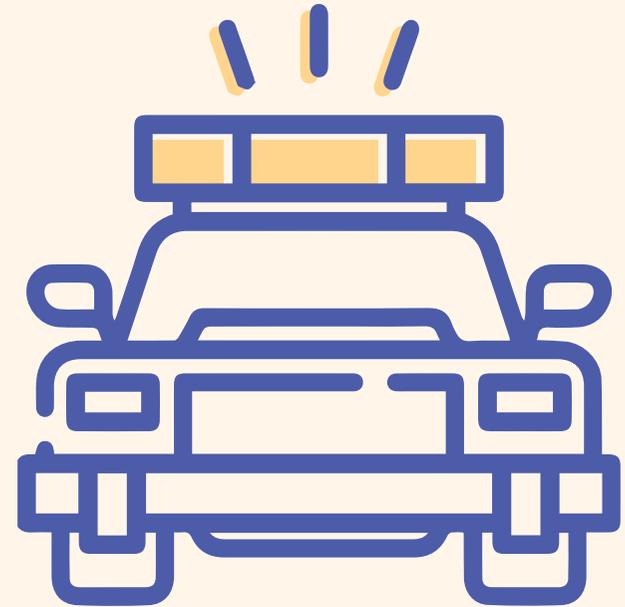


School crossing

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4



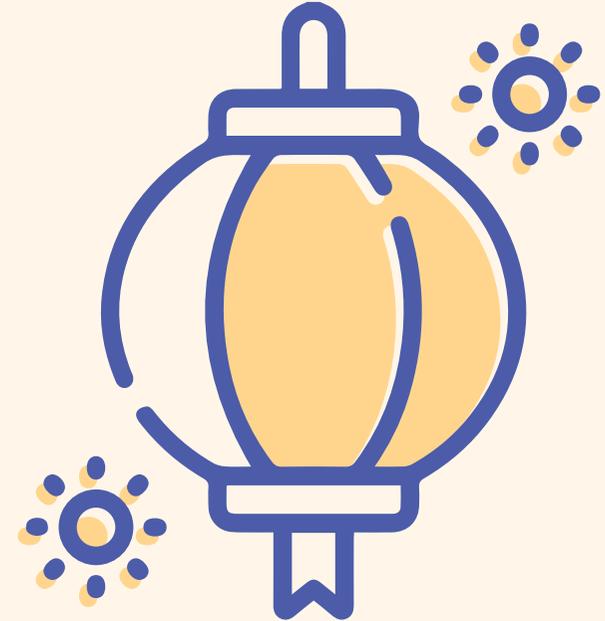
Police

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Foreign affairs

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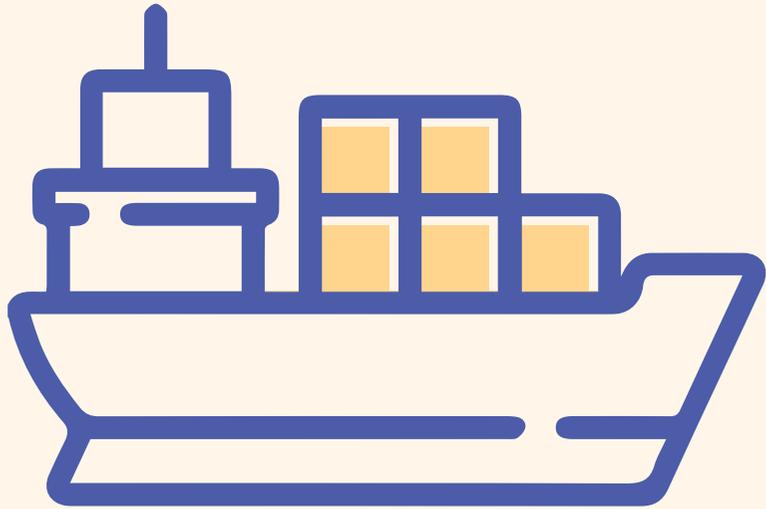


Community culture festivals

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7

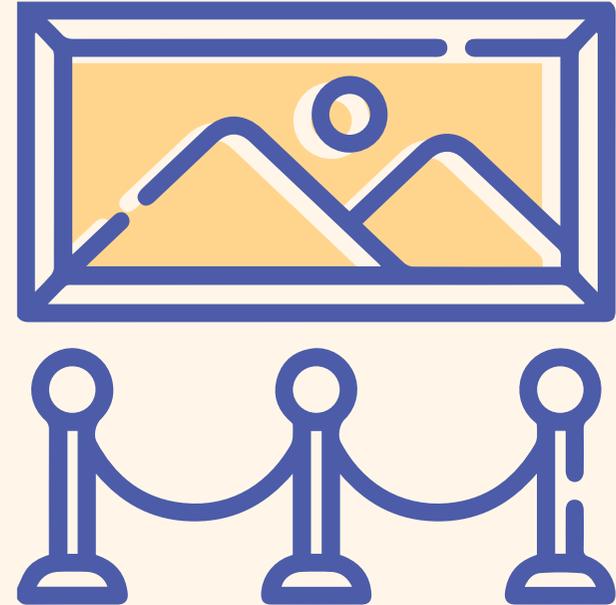


Import/Export

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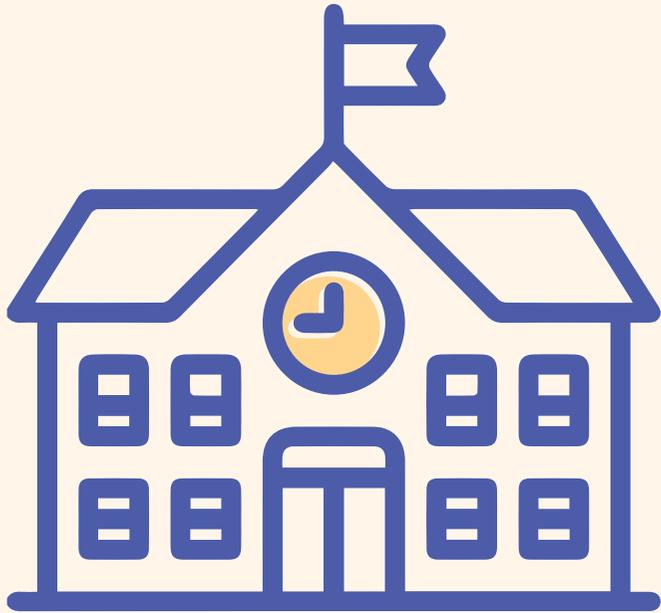
Parliament
of Victoria

8



**Melbourne
museum**

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Schools



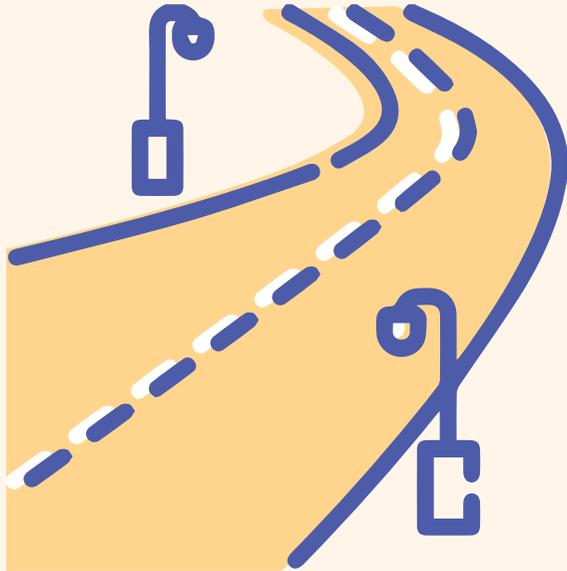
Building permits



University



Recycling



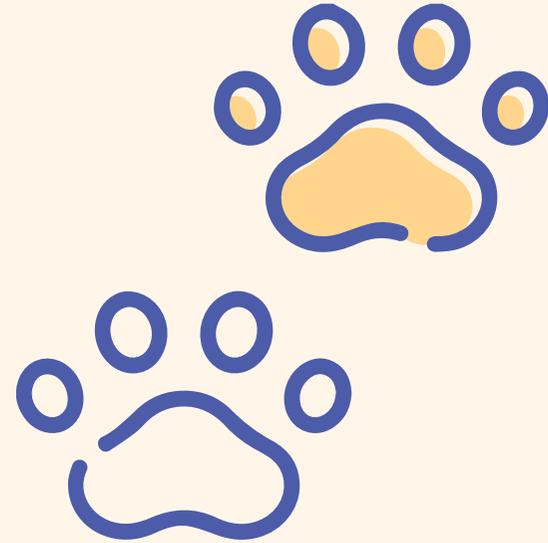
Roads



Internet



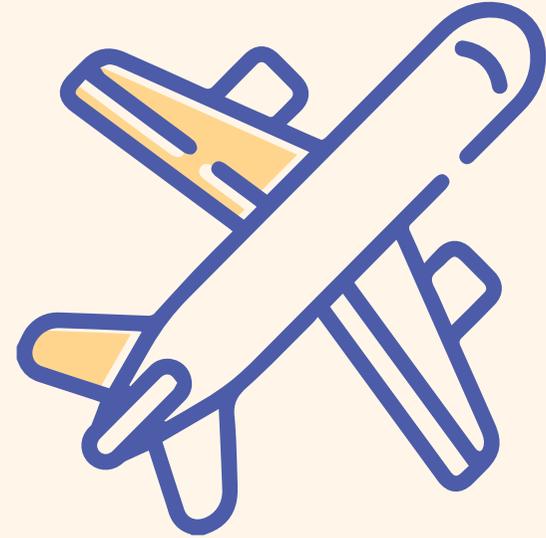
Parking



Pet registration



Driver's license



Airports



Buses



Hospitals



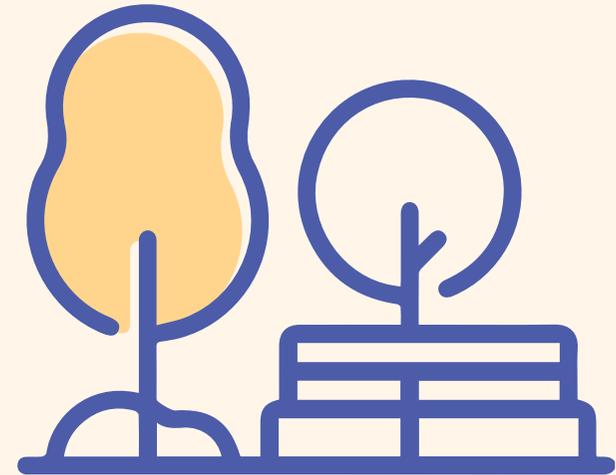
Tax



Water



Libraries



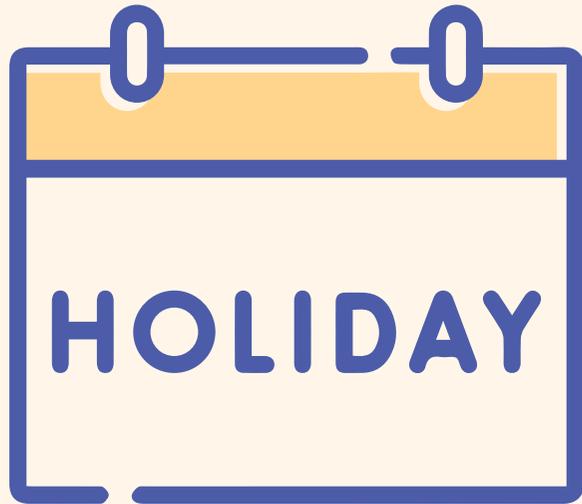
Parks and gardens



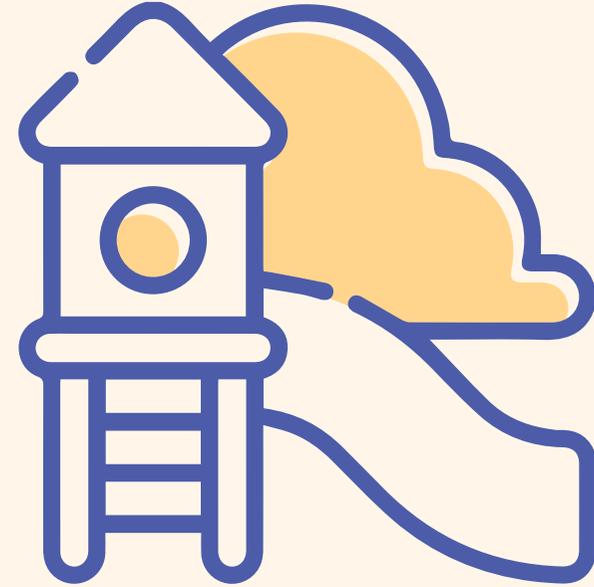
Waste



Armed forces



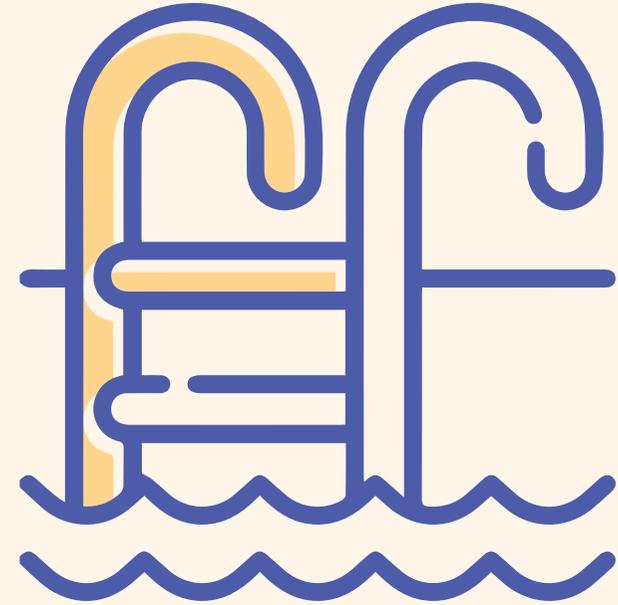
Public holidays



Kindergarten



Immigration



Swimming pools