

YEAR 9 Unit 1

Government and democracy

Government, democracy and the citizen

Bride-to-be Ruby Gamble takes her democratic right to vote seriously, as she arrives at a polling booth before her wedding ceremony. Ruby is one of approximately 16 million Australians who are enrolled to vote in the federal election. There are more than 7000 polling places set up around the country from Cape York, the northern-most tip of Australia, to South East Cape in Tasmania.

For many Australians, voting is more than just a legal requirement they must fulfill. The right to vote is one of our democratic rights as it provides the opportunity to 'have a say' in who will best manage Australia in the future and represent our view in the national parliament.



Source 1 Ruby Gamble voting at her local polling place before her wedding on election day in 2016.

chapter 21

21A

What factors influence Australia's political system?

- 1 Would you ever consider becoming a member of parliament? Why do you think people enter politics?
- 2 What role do political parties play in our political system?
- 3 Do you think there should be more members of parliament who are younger? Why?

21B

How do citizens participate in a modern democracy?

- 1 In what way are you connected to the rest of the world?
- 2 What do you think a good citizen is?
- 3 Do you think there is such a thing as a 'typical Australian'?

21.1 Living in a democracy

Australians over 18 years of age have the right to vote at elections for **candidates** that most closely represent their views about how their country, state, territory or local area should be run. This is called **representative democracy**.

A representative democracy is not a 'set and forget' system. Elections are held at regular intervals. If we are not happy with our elected members we can vote for others to hopefully do a better job at the next election.

Australia is also a **liberal democracy**. This means there are certain values that are viewed as extremely

important. Freedom of speech is one such value. Australians have a right to peacefully protest, whether it is by joining a protest march, signing an online petition, talking to the media about an issue or contacting a member of parliament. Other liberal democratic values or principles are illustrated in Source 4.

Australia is the envy of many other countries because of our liberal democratic values. The following case study highlights some of the problems that occur when liberal democratic values are not upheld.

casestudy: Could this ever happen in Australia?

Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani student, was only fifteen years of age when she was shot in the head by a gunman in October 2012 on her way home from school. The attempted assassination occurred because Malala believed that girls had the right to be educated and had spoken out about this. The ruling group called the Taliban had at times banned school education for girls living in the Swat district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan. Thankfully Malala survived her attack and remains a political activist today.



Source 1 Malala Yousafzai

Internet. The group opposes Russian President Vladimir Putin's policies and believes he is a dictator. Three of the bands members were charged with hooliganism and sent to jail. Many in the West opposed the jailing of the girls, believing they had a right to exercise free speech and protest against the government of the day.

Pussy Riot

A feminist punk rock group called Pussy Riot caught world attention for their political protest in 2012. They staged a performance in a Moscow cathedral and posted their music video entitled 'Punk Prayer – Mother of God, Chase Putin Away!' on the



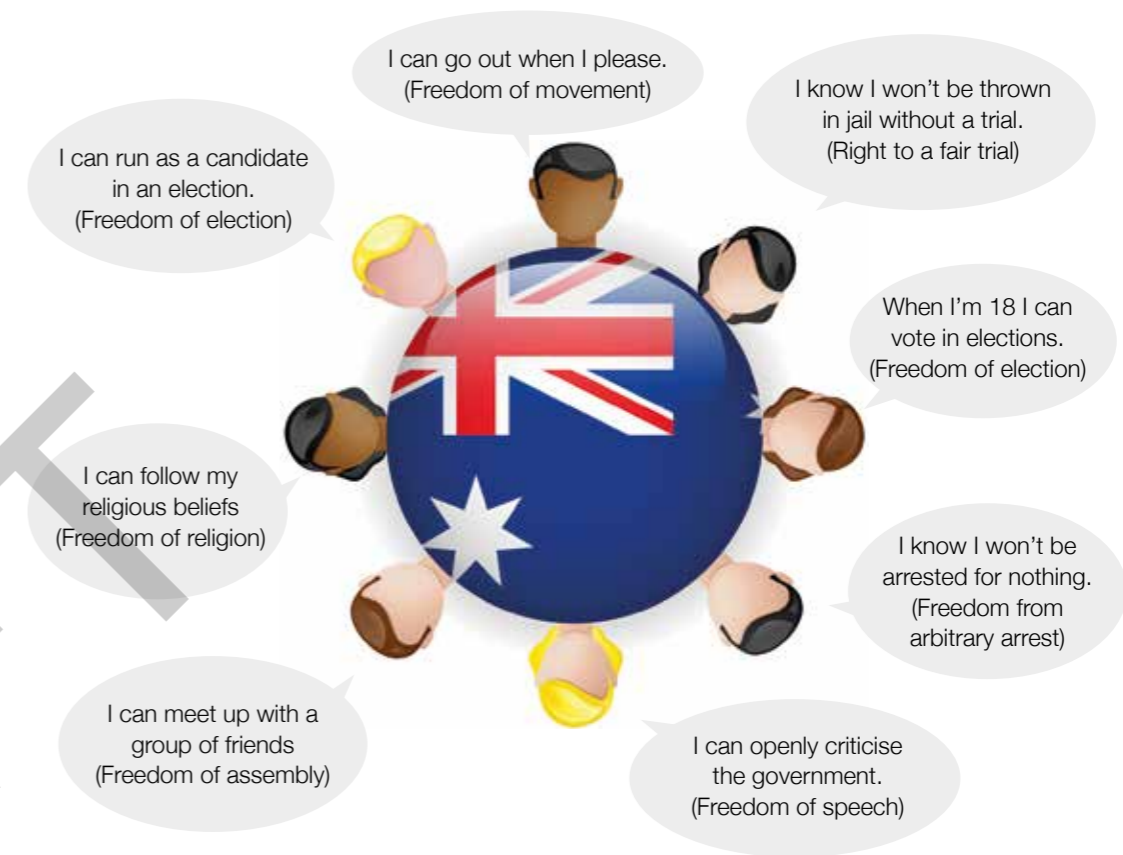
Source 2 Two members of the band Pussy Riot

Aung San Suu Kyi

Aung San Suu Kyi is a Burmese human rights activist and politician. In 1988 she protested against the military regime that ruled Myanmar (Burma) and in 1989 was placed under house arrest – jailed at home – for her political activities. She spent 15 of the next 21 years in custody. Aung San Suu Kyi wants genuine democracy for her country with free and fair elections and respect for human rights in her country.



Source 3 Aung San Suu Kyi



Source 4 Liberal democratic values that we aim to uphold in Australia

Check your learning 21.1

Remember and understand

- 1 Name one important value of a liberal democracy.
- 2 Why is holding regular elections so important?
- 3 Give an example of one political activist who suffered as a result of speaking out against the government of the day.

Apply and analyse

- 4 For countries that don't have free democratic elections, how is it decided who will run the country?
- 5 In the following cases, have democratic values been upheld? Provide a reason for your answer.
 - a In 2007, an Australian named David Hicks pleaded guilty to a United States military commission in Guantanamo, Cuba, for providing material support for terrorism. He alleges that he only pleaded in this way because he wanted to be released and had been tortured while in a prison in Guantanamo.

- b Kevin Rudd was the leader of the Labor Party that won the Australian election in 2007. He was Prime Minister for three years until 2010 when his deputy, Julia Gillard, challenged him for the position and won.
- c In 1974, the leader of the democratically elected Labor Party in Australia, Gough Whitlam, became Prime Minister, but was dismissed a year later by the Governor-General.
- d Robert Mugabe, the 90-year-old President of Zimbabwe, has recently warned journalists that any reporting on his health would result in severe punishment.

Evaluate and create

- 6 Draw an image that illustrates what you think of our liberal democratic values in Australia. You might use an image that shows freedom, such as an open door, a dove or a key.

21.2 Australia's political system

Australia has what is sometimes called a **parliamentary democracy**. This is because those who are elected to represent us meet at a place called **parliament**. It is in parliament that laws are changed or new laws passed that affect all Australians.

Australia's national parliament

In Australia there is a national parliament that makes laws that concern the whole country such as defence, immigration and trade for the whole nation. This national parliament is sometimes called the Federal or Commonwealth Parliament and is situated in Canberra.

Each of the six states and two territories in Australia also has a parliament that makes laws on matters of state importance such as education, transport and health. Each state parliament is democratically elected. Local councils are not called parliaments, but they do make laws on local matters such as rubbish collection, town planning and pet control. Local councils are

democratically elected and there are more than 560 local councils in Australia today.

What has just been described is a **political system**. A political system is a way of determining who has the power and responsibility for making decisions about important matters that affect people's daily lives. The political system we have today is set out in a document called the Australian **Constitution**, which commenced on the first of January 1901. The Constitution established a federal parliamentary system where the responsibility to make or change laws in certain areas is shared by one national parliament and six state parliaments.

The inner workings of the Commonwealth Parliament

Parliament consists of two sections referred to as the upper and lower houses of parliament. The **lower house** of our Commonwealth Parliament is called the



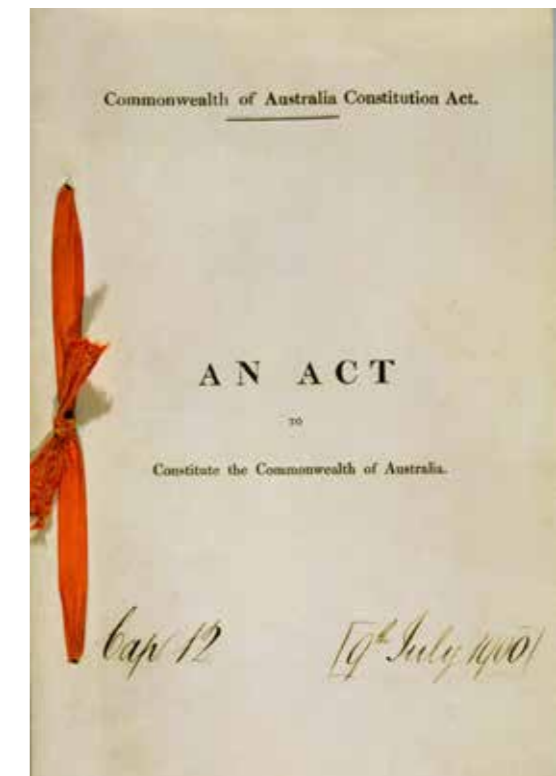
Source 1 Our national parliament – Parliament House in Canberra



Source 2 The House of Representatives in Parliament House, Canberra. The House of Representatives is also known as the lower house.

House of Representatives. Since we have representative democracy, it follows that representatives are chosen from all over Australia to represent our views. In order to achieve this representation, Australia is divided up into 150 geographical divisions known as **electorates**, or seats. Each electorate has roughly 94 000 voters. At election time one candidate is elected from each electorate, becoming a member of the House of Representatives. It is fitting that the House of Representatives is sometimes referred to as 'the people's house'.

Most of the members elected to parliament will belong to a political party. Members of a political party have similar ideas and policies on how to best govern the country. A political party or group of parties, known as a **coalition**, that wins a majority of seats in the House of Representatives (at least 76 of 150 seats) will have won the election, and forms government. It's a simple case of **majority rule**. The leader of the party (or coalition) that has won the majority of seats in the House of Representatives is the Prime Minister. The leader of the party (or coalition) that has the largest number of seats but has not gained a majority in the House of Representatives is the **opposition leader**.



Source 3 The Australian Constitution established a federal system of government.

Source 2 shows the layout of seating in the House of Representatives. The government of the day is the party or coalition that has won the election, and therefore has what is called a mandate or permission to act on behalf of the people of Australia. Each new government brings with it fresh ideas and experience on how best to manage the country. The opposition's role is to hold the government accountable for its actions. In the media, you will often hear an opposition member criticising what the government is doing. It is this close scrutiny of how the country is being managed that is part of our democratic system.

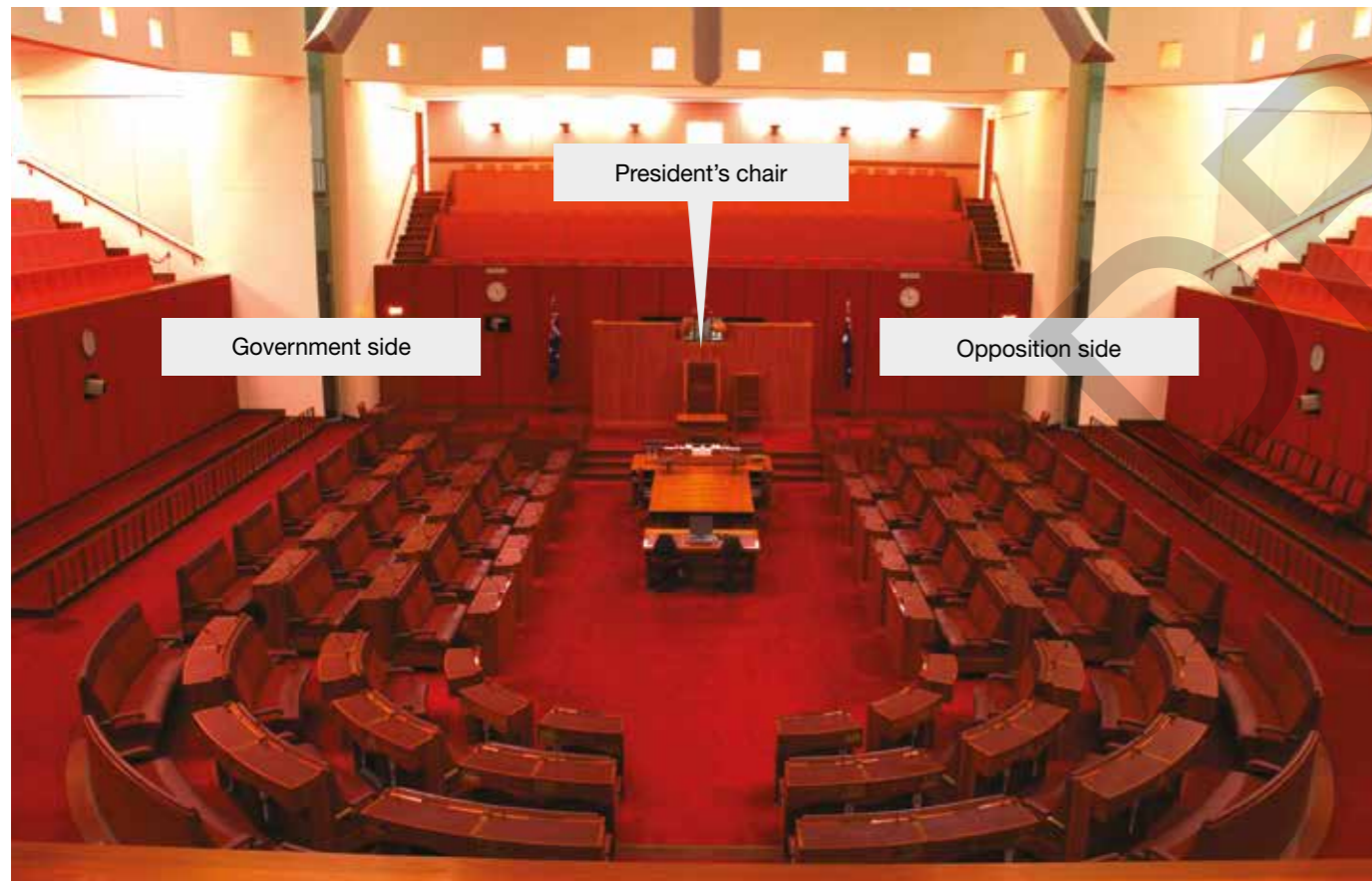
Why two houses of parliament?

The **upper house** of our Commonwealth Parliament is called the **Senate**. It was originally set up to protect the interests of the states. When the Constitution was written, it was decided that each state should be equally represented regardless of its size, so that the smaller states would still have a say. Each state is represented by 12 senators today. The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory are represented by two senators each. Senators are elected to represent the interests of

the state they belong to, but in reality they often belong to a political party and will be influenced by party policy rather than state interests.

You might be wondering why we have two houses of parliament, especially when the real action seems to take place in the House of Representatives where the government is formed. An important purpose of having the Senate is that it is seen as a **house of review** – a house that checks what the government of the day is doing and holds it accountable for its actions.

It is important to understand the difference between the terms 'parliament' and 'government'. As previously mentioned, the government is the party or coalition that has a majority of seats in the House of Representatives. The Commonwealth Parliament includes both houses of parliament as well as the **Governor-General**, who is the Queen's representative in Australia. The Governor-General is appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Governor-General performs many duties such as appointing ambassadors, ministers and judges and also approves laws passed by both houses of parliament.



Source 4 The Senate in Parliament House, Canberra. The Senate is also known as the upper house.



Source 5 The Governor-General is the Queen's representative in Australia. Sir Peter Cosgrove became the Governor-General in 2014.

Check your learning 21.2

Remember and understand

- 1 Give two examples of laws that might be made by the:
 - a Commonwealth Parliament
 - b State and territory parliaments
 - c Local councils
- 2 What is the Constitution?
- 3 What is the purpose of the Senate?
- 4 What is another name for:
 - a a seat
 - b the House of Representatives?

Apply and analyse

- 5 Refer to Source 2 and explain why there would usually be more people sitting on the government side than the opposition side.

- 6 List one possible advantage and one disadvantage of having a federal system.
- 7 Look at the following election results and decide which party or coalition will form government.

Australian Labor Party	55
Liberal/National Coalition	90
The Greens	1
Katter's Australian Party	1
Nick Xenophon Team	1
Independent	2

Evaluate and create

- 8 Draw a diagram that illustrates the number of members in both houses of the Commonwealth Parliament and how it is determined who the government is.

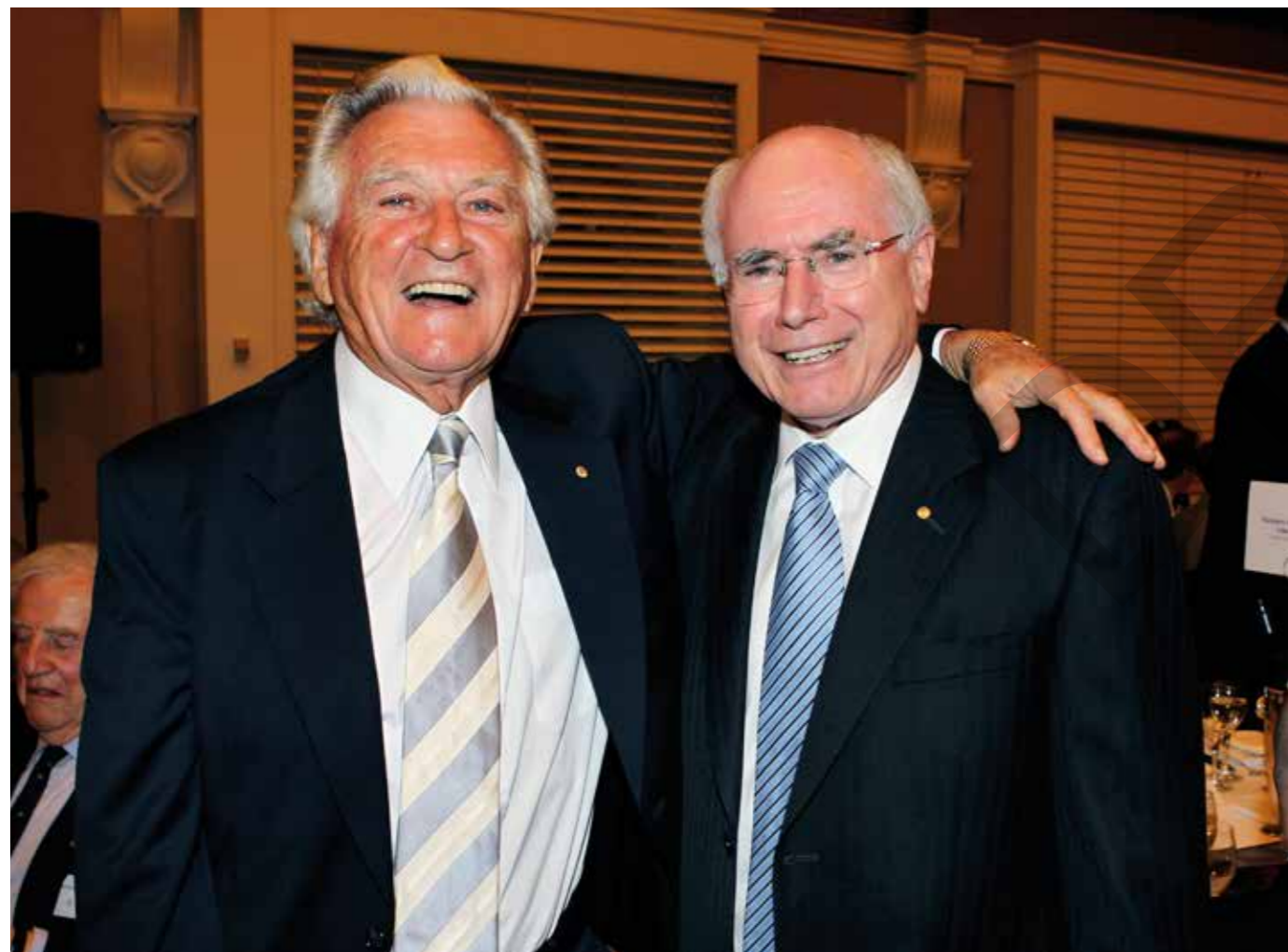
21.3 Political parties and policy developments

The Australian Parliament is made up of members from a number of different political parties, along with independent candidates (who do not belong to a political party).

Political parties

Political parties are made up of groups of people who share similar ideas about how their country or state should be run. In Australia, two political parties dominate; the Labor Party (often referred to as the ALP) and the Liberal Party.

There are many other smaller political parties such as the Nationals and the Greens. The primary purpose of the two major political parties is to win the election. Each political party puts forwards their own candidates at election time; if a majority of those candidates win their lower house seats they are said to be 'in power' and able to form government. The Liberal Party and the Nationals often join forces in a coalition (partnership) in order to form government together. It is the government of the day that has the power to make important decisions.



Source 1 Former Labor Prime Minister Bob Hawke and former Liberal Prime Minister John Howard both won four Australian elections. John Howard is Australia's longest serving Prime Minister after former Prime Minister Robert Menzies (1894–1978), who won eight Australian elections.

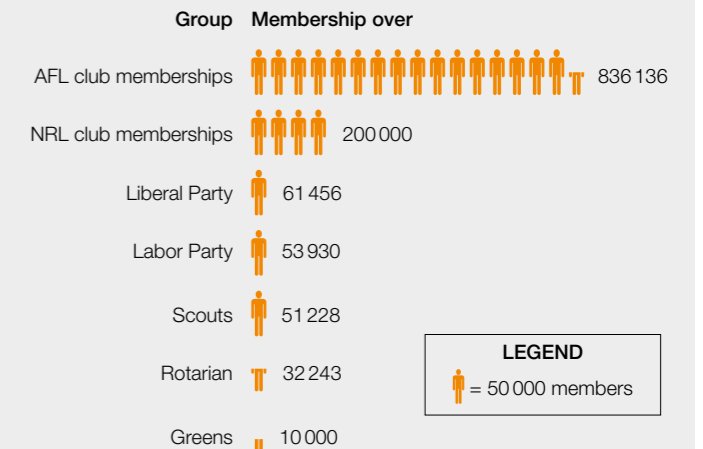
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Why don't Australians want to party?

Membership of sporting clubs such as the NRL far surpasses membership to political parties in Australia, but this wasn't always the case. In the 1950s membership of both major parties was around 350 000. It seems that in our busy lives there's little time for politics. Many people feel that they have 'a say' at the polling booth so why bother joining a party?

Both the major political parties are now heeding the call to recruit new members and are making changes to encourage more people to join a political party. Senator Sam Dastyari believes political parties must change some of their ways. He says there is too much emphasis on having regular face-to-face meetings, when there are other ways to communicate in the 21st century.

There are almost 60 different political parties registered on the Australian Electoral Commission's website. Some parties have broad-ranging ideals, while others have more specific causes to fight for.



Source 2 Many political parties must review their membership policies if they want to increase party membership. The membership data above was accurate as at November 2015.



KEY PRINCIPLES

- Australia's oldest political party
- Believes that the government should play a strong national role
- Strives for a fairer Australia for all workers
- Tries to close the gap between the rich and poor so that wealth is more evenly distributed



KEY PRINCIPLES

- Believes in the power of the individual and business to make their own choices and prosper
- Strives for less government control
- The Liberals and the Nationals join forces at the federal level so they have enough members to form government



KEY PRINCIPLES

- Represents the interests of those Australians that live outside the cities in country Australia
- Believes in strong local communities referring to themselves as the 'local champions'

Source 3 The Labor and Liberal Party are the two dominant political parties in Australia today. The Liberal Party often forms a coalition with the Nationals in order to form government.

The role of independents in parliament

Not all members of parliament belong to a political party – these members are called independents. Some independents may have belonged to a political party but were dissatisfied. Independents may have views that do not quite fit a party mould. Independents can play a powerful role in Parliament, particularly if the

major party relies on their vote to pass important laws. Andrew Wilkie is an independent who was elected by voters in the Tasmanian seat of Denison. Wilkie's primary campaign in the 2010 election was the removal of poker machines.

There are various influences that shape Australia's political system, and that influence government policy. Public opinion, the media and international pressures are just some of the factors that may come into play.

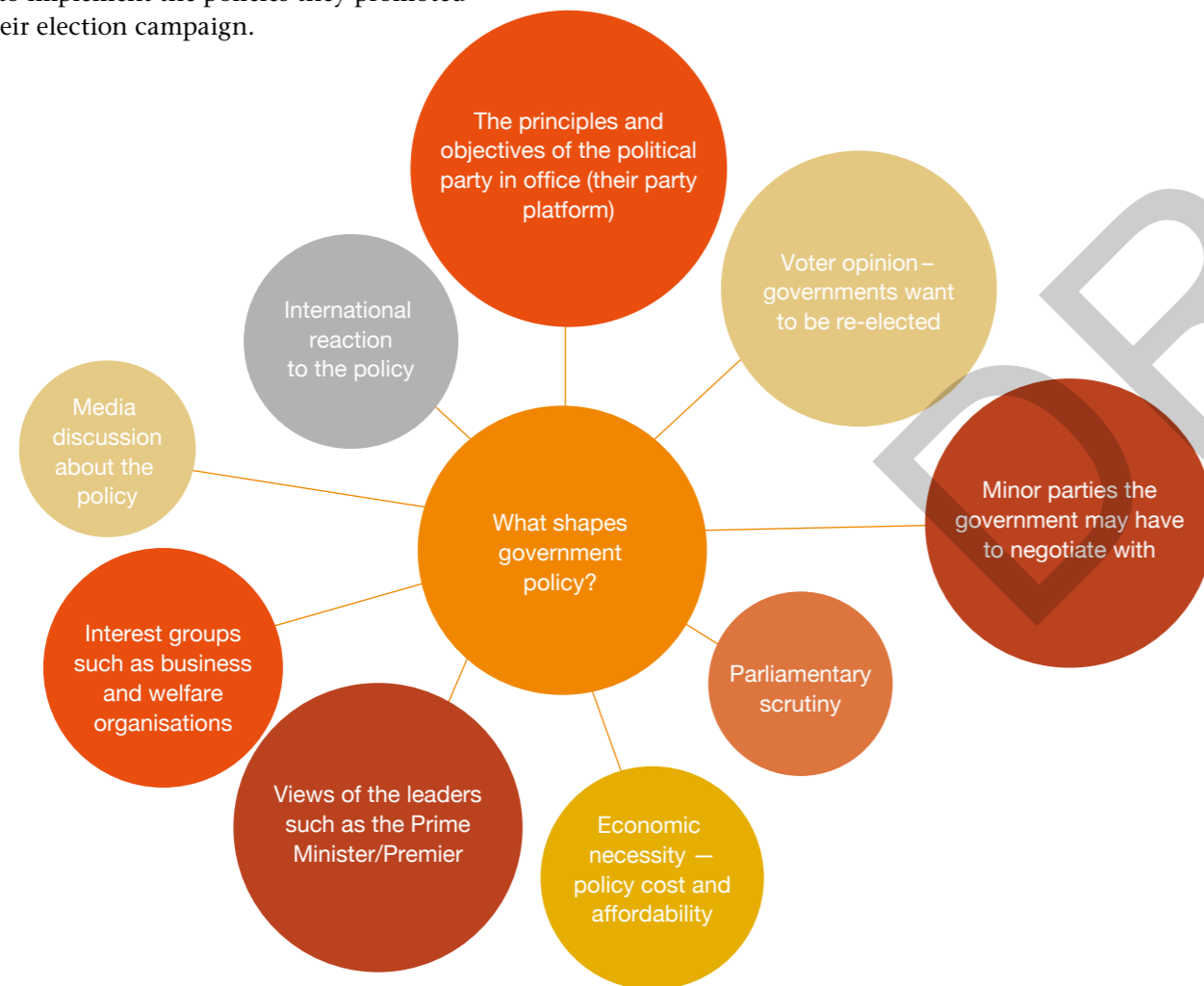
Shaping and developing government policy

A policy is a statement of principles that aims to guide action that must be taken in the future. At a school level, for example, there may be an environmental policy that includes plans to recycle, reduce waste and reuse resources. Political parties develop policies that we usually learn about at election time. For example, around the 2013 federal election time, the Liberal Party of Australia announced their policy to 'stop the boats', a policy that was aimed to deter people seeking asylum in Australia by boat without a valid visa. During the 2016 federal election campaign, the Labor Party focused on health care, promising to protect bulk billing rates and increase hospital funding.

The political party that wins the election and forms government must put their policies into action. The government of the day is said to have been given the mandate to implement the policies they promoted during their election campaign.

Source 4 shows factors that might influence government policy. Winning an election, though, does not mean that the government can simply set about implementing their policies without any interference. In order to implement many policies, new law must be passed in parliament. If a government does not hold the majority of seats in the Senate it will need to negotiate with senators so that they support new legislation.

Opinion polls, media and interest groups will also play a role in affecting government policy. For example, a discussion surrounding reform of our tax system and increasing taxes will normally result in business groups and community welfare groups commenting about the effects of the policy. International pressure or relations with other countries may also influence government policy.



Source 4 Government policy is shaped by a number of factors.



Source 5 The media often put issues under the spotlight, resulting in policy change.

Check your learning 21.3

Remember and understand

- 1 Who are the two major political parties in Australia today?
- 2 What is the main aim of the two major political parties?
- 3 Refer to Source 3 and choose just one or two words that describe what each party stands for.
- 4 Name at least one previous Labor prime minister and one previous Liberal prime minister.

Apply and analyse

- 5 Explain what a policy is and give an example of a government policy you know of.
- 6 In your opinion, do you think the two major political parties always uphold their beliefs? Why or why not?
- 7 List at least two possible reasons why someone might want to join a political party.

- 8 Why do you think membership of political parties isn't as strong as it used to be?
- 9 Would you ever join a political party? If not, why not?
- 10 What are independents and why might they have considerable power in parliament?
- 11 Look at the news stories of the day and give an example of an interest group that is seeking to affect government policy.

Evaluate and create

- 12 A list of political parties can be found on the Australian Electoral Commission's website. Choose one party and explain in no more than two sentences what that party stands for.
- 13 What might be a possible problem with having only two dominant parties in parliament? Create a table and enter your ideas under the column headings of Pros and Cons.

21.4 Election time

The lead-up to an election is an important time for political parties and independents to persuade the voting public to vote for them on election day.

Factors that influence voter behaviour

Factors that could influence who a voter decides to vote for include:

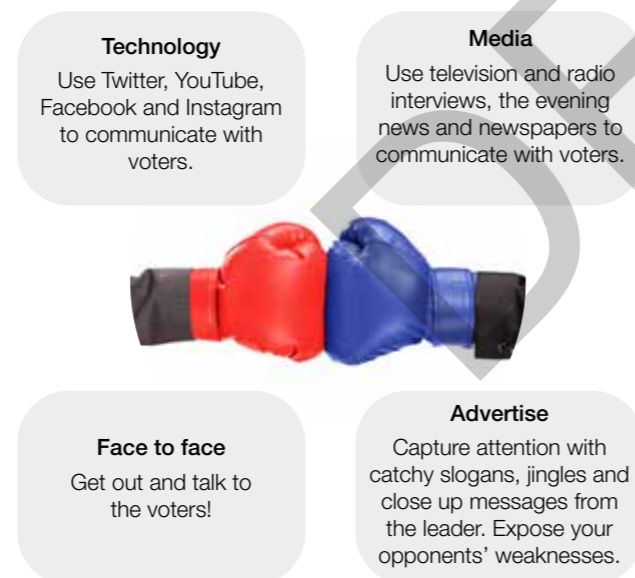
- **the leader of each major political party and how well they perform.** Personality rather than politics can sometimes sway the voter. A leader that has strong personal appeal amongst the voting public will increase their party's chances of winning.
- **important issues.** The voter may be influenced by short-term issues that affect them personally. For example, a family with children will be interested in childcare and parental leave policies. Longer term issues such as the environment or treatment of asylum seekers also affect voter choice.
- **the track record and competence of the government.** If the government of the day has performed well and has managed the economy well they are more likely to be re-elected.
- **the performance of the opposition party.** An opposition that has raised and highlighted government mismanagement and offered a better alternative may persuade voters.
- **party loyalty.** Some voters will always vote for the same political party no matter what. Sometimes this can be influenced by how family members have voted. Class may also play a role in who someone votes for. In the past, the Labor party has been seen as the party for the working class, with the Liberal party representing the interest of the upper class.
- **media portrayal of the party or independent.** What we read online, see on television and hear on radio affects our view of the candidates. Not all information is reported impartially.
- **a well-run campaign strategy.** Presentation is important at election time and conveying the right message to appeal to a wide variety of voters can influence election results.



Source 1 On election day polling booths are set up around the country, even in outback Australia. Voters have listened to weeks of campaigning and now it is time to make a decision.

Campaign strategies

Political parties and independents use many different campaign strategies to gain voter approval. The four main campaign strategies are summarised in Source 2.



Source 2 An election campaign is a contest where political opponents battle it out to win our vote. Political parties and individual candidates use different strategies to communicate with voters.

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Will you enrol to vote?

According to Ms Daly, a spokesperson from the Australia Institute, half of all voters under 25 believe that no party represents their interests. Dissatisfaction and disillusionment with political parties and politics may also stop young people from enrolling to vote. First-time voters must enrol with the Australian Electoral Commission before they can vote. One-quarter of young Australians failed to enrol to vote in the 2013 federal election. The Australian Electoral Commission embarked on a Facebook campaign to encourage younger voters to enrol.

Top five issues for young people

- 1 Jobs for young people
- 2 Rent and housing
- 3 University funding
- 4 Same-sex marriage
- 5 Climate change

Source: Australian Institute Poll 2013

Political parties need to engage younger people if they want to secure their vote in future. According to a report by the Whitlam Institute in 2011, young voters under the age of 35 represent approximately 30 per cent of the electorate. Young people can make an impact on an election result. They also tend to change their vote depending on the issues rather than loyalty to a political party. They are sometimes called swinging or floating voters.



Source 3 Some people are undecided about who they are going to vote for and leave their decision until quite late in the election campaign. They are called swinging voters.

Check your learning 21.4

Remember and understand

- 1 List three factors that can influence voter behaviour.
- 2 What is a swinging voter?
- 3 What must a first-time voter do before they can vote?

Apply and analyse

- 4 List the four main campaign strategies used by political parties. Which one do you think is most effective? Give reasons for your answer.
- 5 Make your own list of top five issues that you think political candidates should stand for.
- 6 Read scenarios a–e below and decide on the main factor influencing the behaviour of each of the voters.
 - a Jeanette's parents are Liberal supporters and she would never think of voting for anyone else.

- b Debra voted for the Labor party because of the same-sex marriage issue.
- c Antoinette voted for the Liberal party because she liked their parental leave policy.
- d John read a lot of political articles and was swayed by one journalist's view of a political party.

Evaluate and create

- 7 Look at all the factors that might influence a voter. Which factors do you think will influence you the most when you vote in an election?
- 8 Imagine you are in charge of running an election campaign for someone you admire who is running for office. Create a campaign strategy using Source 2 as a guide. Go further and create a political advertisement either in print or video.

21.5 Counting the votes

Have you ever voted? It might have been for a class captain or you may have voted for your favourite contestant on a talent show. Voting gives us all the freedom to have 'a say' in who we think is the best person for the job.

All eligible Australians aged 18 and over must vote in national and state parliamentary elections. Unlike most major democratic countries, Australia has compulsory voting. Those who do not vote can be fined. Voting is also by secret ballot; no one has the right to know who someone voted for.

Voting in a federal election – the House of Representatives

On arrival at a polling booth the voter is given two ballot papers to record their vote. The ballot paper to elect one member from their electorate to the House of Representatives can be seen here in Source 1. The voter marks their preferences by putting a number in each box. Marking '1' next to the candidate indicates the voter's first preference. The voter then marks their second choice by marking '2' next to a candidate and so on, depending on how many candidates there are in that particular electorate. If a voter does not follow the procedure

outlined, the vote will be considered informal (incorrect and incomplete) and won't be counted.

The **preferential system** of voting is used to determine who will win a seat in the House of Representatives. In order to win, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes, which is half of the votes plus one. If a candidate receives the majority of the first preferences they are elected straight away. If not, then the candidate with the fewest first preferences is eliminated and the second preferences on those ballot papers for that candidate are distributed to the other candidates. If there is still no clear winner, the next candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated and their preferences are distributed. Members of the House of Representatives are elected for a term of three years.

Voting in a federal election – the Senate

Senators are elected for six years. At election time only half the positions in the Senate become vacant. After the election half the Senate will consist of newly elected Senators and the other half is made up of Senators who are halfway through their six-year term.

The aim of this rotating system is so that the Senate reflects the view of voters at different times.

On election day the voter is given a large white ballot paper (see Source 2), and can vote for candidates in one of two ways. Voters can mark their preferences numbered from at least 1 to 6 for a party or group in the boxes above the line (although they can number all boxes above the line). Alternatively, they can number their preferences for candidates from at least 1 to 12 below the line (but they can number all boxes below the line if they wish).

Proportional representation is the voting system used in the Senate. In Senate elections voters are

voting to fill more than one vacancy. In order to win a place in the senate the candidate must reach a **quota**. A quota is determined by adding one to the total number of vacancies to be filled and then dividing this number by the total number of formal votes and adding one.

The quota for electing six state senators is calculated like this:

$$\frac{\text{Total formal votes } 700\,000}{6 \text{ senators} + 1} = 100\,000 + 1 = 100\,001 = \text{QUOTA}$$

(6 senators + 1) 7

A candidate that reaches the quota becomes a senator.

Check your learning 21.5

Remember and understand

- What is the system of voting used in the following houses of federal parliament?
 - House of Representatives
 - Senate
- What are the consequences of not voting in a federal or state election in Australia?
- A voter who votes above the line on a senate ballot marks their first preference only. Who decides the voter's preferences?

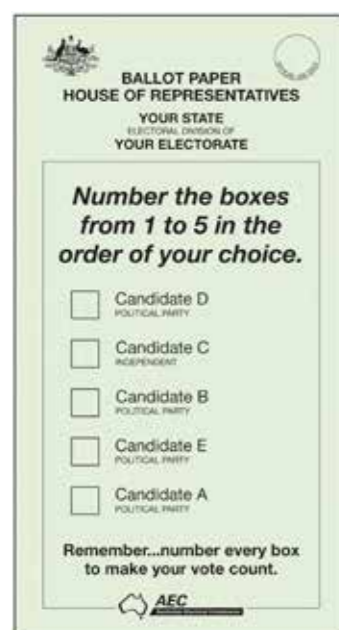
Apply and analyse

- Give one reason why we vote by secret ballot in Australia.
- Provide one argument for and one argument against compulsory voting in Australia.
- Why are only half the senators elected at each election?
- Calculate who has won their seat in the House of Representatives election. Assume for simplicity that there are only 100 voters.

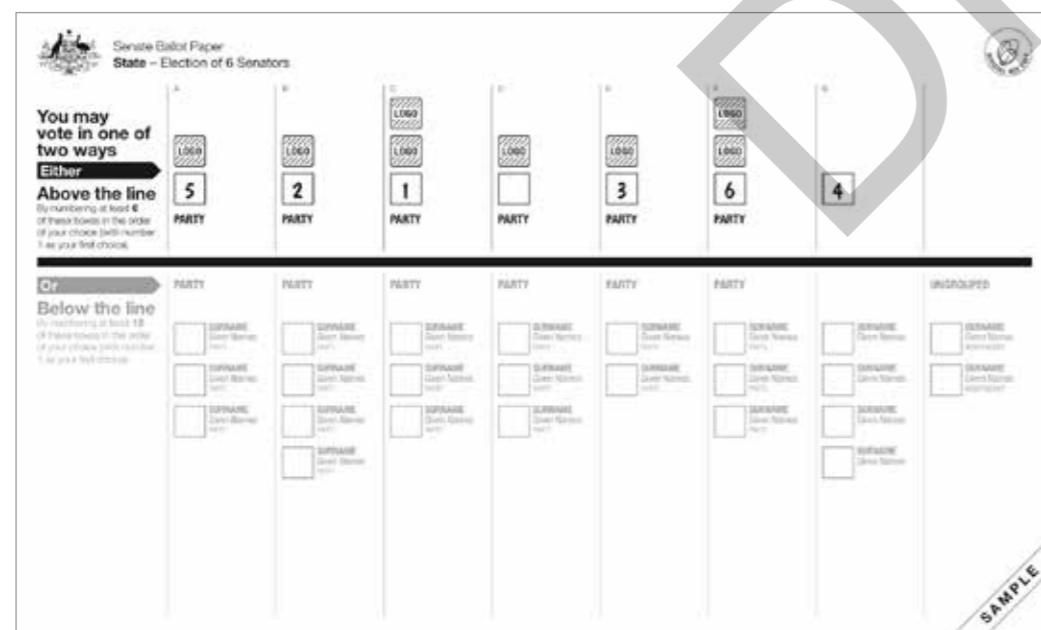
- Calculate the quota for a senate election in the ACT where two senators are elected and there are 2400 formal votes.

Evaluate and create

- Go to the Australian Electoral Commission website and search for 'Comic creations'. Use the interactive to create an online comic strip about the ways of voting.
- Go to the Australian Electoral Commission website and find out:
 - when women were given the right to vote in Commonwealth elections
 - when Indigenous Australians were given the right to vote in Commonwealth elections.
- Create a PowerPoint presentation that communicates the main issues that led to each of these groups being given the right to vote.



Source 1 A House of Representatives ballot paper



Source 2 Senate ballot paper

Candidate	John	Isabelle	Tony	Aditi
First preferences	40	31	15	14
Second preferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isabelle 15 Tony 15 Aditi 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John 20 Tony 10 Aditi 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John 5 Isabelle 5 Aditi 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John 11 Isabelle 2 Tony 3

21A rich task

Behind the election

Sometimes voters feel bombarded with information at election time. They turn on the news and see politicians kissing babies and meeting members of the public. The phone rings and it is another pollster. A political message also awaits the voter in their letterbox and a trip to the local supermarket might involve shaking the local candidate's hand. It's sometimes difficult to decipher all the information we are given around election time.

Political cartoonists provide some light relief to the barrage of information at election time because they often use humour. Behind the humour, though, there is usually a serious message.



Source 1 Politicians may 'dangle carrots' to entice voters in the run up to an election.

skilldrill: Reasoning and interpretation

Analysing political cartoons

Political cartoons appear in newspapers, magazines and online. They are popular because they use humour to pass comment on topical political and social issues. They tend to present caricatures of important political figures, exaggerating their physical features for effect – for example, making a politician's big nose appear huge. Many cartoonists use stereotypes; generalisations about a group of people, for example, that all Australians say 'G'day mate'. Metaphor is also commonly used, where a parallel is drawn between two things that are different. For example, saying a stubborn person is a mule.

When analysing political cartoons, follow these steps:

- Step 1** Identify the date when the cartoon was first published and the title of the cartoon or its caption if it has one.
- Step 2** Simply look at the cartoon and identify what is happening without trying to understand or interpret it.
- Step 3** Identify the political event or issue being shown in the cartoon. Look for visual clues to help you.
- Step 4** Look for any symbols, metaphors and caricature that give further clues to the cartoon's meaning.
- Step 5** Identify the method the cartoonist has used to bring our attention to the issue. Have they used humour? Is there a serious message the cartoonist is trying to convey behind the humour, and if so what is it? Do you agree with the message? An example of how to use these steps has been done for you.

Apply the skill

- 1 Follow the steps outlined above to analyse Source 2.

Step 1 This cartoon was drawn in 2012.

Step 2 Ships are sinking. Passengers are in command, not the captain of the ship.

Step 3 The cartoonist is saying that sometimes the country is not 'steered in the right direction' because leaders are too worried about what the voters think. They are more interested in staying in power than making the right but tough decisions.

Step 4 The cartoonist has used the metaphor of the sinking ship. The ship signifies democracies in the Western world such as Australia. The passengers are the voters. Captain Schettino in real life was the captain of Italian ship the *Costa Concordia* that sank in 2012. Captain Schettino symbolises the leader of the Government.

Step 5 The cartoonist is using humour to make his point. I agree; sometimes the right decisions are not made because politicians are continually thinking about opinion polls. On the other hand you could say elections make politicians strive to do better, which is good for us.

Michaelson 19 JAN 12

The West's democracies are ruled by the 'Captain Schettino' syndrome.

The passengers just want floor upon floor of spas, bars, cinemas, restaurants, waxing studios and heated pools.

The leaders like to show off from the bridge. If a poll says 'sail closer to the rocks' they'll do it so they can wave to the crowd.

If the ship overturns, the leaders take to the lifeboats and a new set of Captain Schettinos is elected...

Source 2 A political cartoon may be analysed by following the steps outlined.

Extend your understanding

- 1 Create a political cartoon of your own about elections by following these steps.
 - a Make a list of points about elections. For example, 'politicians break their promises'.
 - b Think of images that might help you illustrate your point. Think about how you will make people laugh. Consider using symbols, metaphors and caricature.
 - c Roughly sketch out the idea and check whether it works. Is the message too easy, or too difficult to interpret?
 - d Adjust your image, and create a final copy.

21.6 Understanding citizenship in a diverse and globalised society

Look around you. Your classroom is most likely filled with students from a range of different cultural or ethnic backgrounds. There are probably also students who have different beliefs and customs to you. This difference is often referred to as **diversity**. Modern Australian society is very diverse. A diverse society can also be referred to as **pluralist society**. A range of different people can co-exist peacefully despite their different lifestyles, cultures and beliefs. Pluralist societies depend on citizens to respect this difference while obeying the laws and democratic beliefs of that country.

Australian citizenship

One way to understand what Australian citizenship means, is to look at a person's legal right to live in Australia and the responsibilities and privileges each citizen has. The other aspect of being an Australian citizen is the social responsibility we have to members of our community.

In a legal sense, all Australian citizens have responsibilities such as:

- obeying the law
- voting in elections
- serving on a jury if asked
- defending the country should the need arise.

Australian citizens also enjoy certain privileges that include being able to vote for members of parliament to represent our views, and being able to stand for election to parliament. Other privileges include being able to apply for an Australian passport to enter and leave the country freely, and knowing that we are entitled to receive official Australian help if we need it when in another country.

Many Australian citizens go beyond the legal responsibilities they have because they think they have a social responsibility to contribute to their community. If you have ever participated in a Clean Up Australia Day, donated to a worthwhile charity or participated in a sausage sizzle to raise money for a worthwhile cause, you will have made a social contribution to the community.



Source 1 Australian of the Year participants in 2015. Rosie Batty was given the award for her work raising the issue of domestic violence.

Volunteering in Australia

More than 6 million Australians volunteer their services to help others each year. Volunteers receive no monetary payment in return for contributing to their communities.

There are many different types of non-government organisations that provide opportunities for people to volunteer their services. Some of these organisations may be religious, such as the Salvation Army, while others may have no religious connection at all. A website called *GoVolunteer* lists nearly 600 volunteer organisations helping people find the right volunteer work for them.

Source 1 shows all the Australian of the Year participants in 2015. Rosie Batty (second from left), was awarded Australian of the Year for her work campaigning against domestic violence after the death of her son, Luke. In 2014, Adam Goodes, a former AFL player, was awarded Australian of the Year for his work in the community and with troubled youth. He established an organisation called *Go Foundation* that focuses on promoting education, employment and healthy lifestyles for Indigenous Australians.

Global citizenship

A global or world citizen sees their place in the global or world community rather than just belonging to their local community or country. Many **global citizens** see themselves as being part of the same club which all people can join because they are part of one human race. Environmental issues such as global warming, human rights issues such as child labour and economic and social issues such as poverty are seen by some as world issues that require a response from people everywhere in the world.

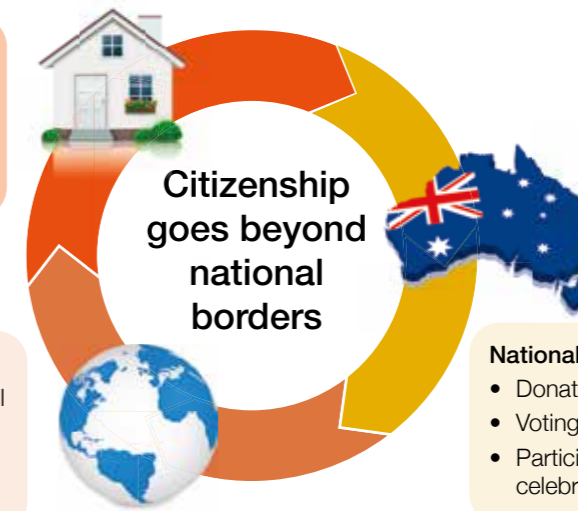
There are many factors that have contributed to our sense of being part of a global community. More sophisticated technology means we have access to better information and communicate quickly via email, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Many people also have the ability to speak and understand a second language. Approximately one out of every four of the world's population can speak English with some level of competence. This ability to communicate with people across the globe helps to create a global community. Other factors that have increased our contact with people from other countries include immigration, trade, travel and working overseas.

Local

- Helping others in the local community
- Doing jury duty
- Voting in council and state elections
- Participating in local celebrations

Global

- Contributing to issues that affect all men and women such as poverty, environmental destruction and human rights issues



National

- Donating or volunteering for charity
- Voting in national elections
- Participating in national celebrations

Source 2 Citizens can participate in their society in many different ways: locally, nationally and globally.

Check your learning 21.6

Remember and understand

- 1 Name at least three legal responsibilities all Australian citizens have.
- 2 What is meant by the term 'pluralist society'?

Apply and analyse

- 3 What factors have led to an increasing sense of global connectedness?
- 4 Think of a reason why being a world citizen might be considered dangerous.
- 5 Is a 'good citizen' always a law-abiding one?

Evaluate and create

- 6 Visit the *GoVolunteer* website and enter search criteria to find a volunteer organisation of particular interest to you. Describe how this organisation contributes to the Australian community.

- 7 Investigate a human rights campaign such as the End Poverty campaign or the Live Below the Line campaign. Describe some of the methods used to create change for the better.
- 8 Which of the following quotes do you most agree with and why?

'I am a citizen of the world' – Diogenes Laertius, Greek philosopher (AD 220).

'I am not a citizen of the world. I think the entire concept is intellectual nonsense and stunningly dangerous!' – Newt Gingrich, American politician.

21.7 Diversity and identity in Australia

A pluralist society is one where difference is respected. This difference, sometimes referred to as diversity, means that not everything or everyone is the same. When you apply this concept to Australia it is clear we are a diverse mix of people from different cultures. Some people follow a particular religion, whereas others have no religious beliefs. Difference is also prevalent when you consider gender, age, disability, people's sexual preferences and age.

Diversity in Australia

Let's consider Australia's cultural diversity in particular.

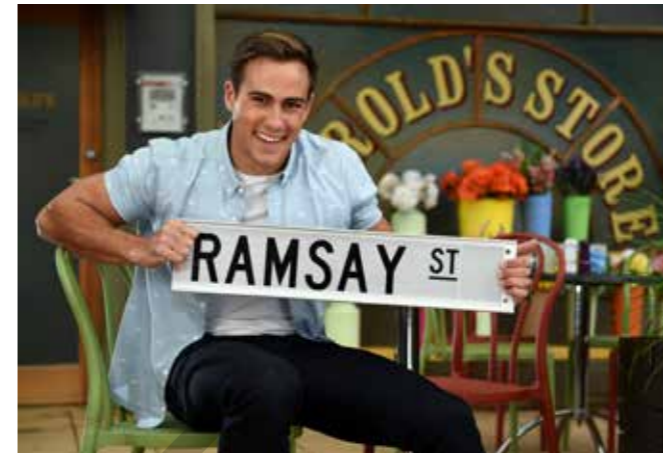
Australia's cultural diversity

There are around 24 million people living in Australia today. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the original inhabitants of Australia and make up 2.5 per cent of the population. The rest of the population today is made up of migrants or their descendants.



Source 1 According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 28.1 per cent of Australia's estimated resident population were born overseas.

The first migrants to Australia came from Great Britain, establishing the first European settlement at Sydney Cove in 1788. Since then migrants have come to Australia from approximately 200 countries. Australia is culturally diverse because we have people from so



Source 3 Popular Australian television shows such as *Neighbours* have been criticised for failing to cast actors from a variety of different cultural backgrounds. The show's producer says efforts will be made to cast actors from different backgrounds in forthcoming roles.

many different cultural backgrounds. Look around your classroom and you will most likely see a diverse range of students from various countries and ethnic backgrounds. A country that is culturally diverse is sometimes likened to a tossed salad or mosaic artwork.

Many Australians celebrate our diverse mix of cultures, enjoying a wide range of food, art and culture that people from other countries bring to Australia. This diversity can, however, lead to racial discrimination – see the case study on the Cronulla race riots.

Australian identity

It is difficult to define what a 'typical' Australian is because of our cultural diversity. Each of us will also have a different idea about the unique characteristics that make us Australian – this is referred to as Australian identity. There are many stereotypes about what the typical Australian is like. Many stereotypes are created because of popular films, television shows, news coverage and social media.

- 1 Most Australians live in the outback.
- 2 When Australians have a BBQ they all 'chuck a shrimp on the barbie'.
- 3 Most Australians say 'crikey' all the time.
- 4 The kangaroo can be seen in many city areas in Australia.
- 5 Australians drink too much.
- 6 The meat pie is the national dish of Australia.
- 7 Australians wear Akubra hats (broad brimmed hat made of rabbit fur felt).
- 8 Australians are laid back, open and friendly to everyone.
- 9 Most Australians live near a beach.
- 10 Australians are uncouth and racist.

Source 4 Some stereotypical perceptions of Australians

case study

Do we always respect difference?

The Cronulla race riots occurred on 11 December 2005 with 5000 people gathering on Cronulla Beach in Sydney to protest against some violent incidents that had recently taken place. Prior to the riots, there had been an incident between a group of men of Middle Eastern appearance and three lifesavers on North Cronulla beach.

It was reported in the media that the lifesavers were attacked without provocation and mobile phones were used to call for additional men before the lifesavers were bashed and kicked unconscious. Apparently no mobile phones were used and additional men were not called to join in the fight. The fight was over in a short space of time and had involved indecent remarks by both parties. Analysis of the media coverage of the riots prepared by Associate Professor Catharine



Source 2 The media has a responsibility to report what happens accurately and fairly. The media can influence public perception of an issue or event.

Lumby found that radio talkback hosts had fuelled the perception that Anglo-Australians were under attack from Middle Eastern men.

Check your learning 21.7

Remember and understand

- 1 In what ways is Australia culturally diverse?
- 2 List at least two ways cultural stereotypes are developed.

Apply and analyse

- 3 Calculate the percentage of your class that were born overseas and compare this to the statistics on Australians born overseas.
- 4 Why was the media handling of the Cronulla race riots criticised?
- 5 What are the consequences if the media does not report accurately and fairly on issues such as racial discrimination?
- 6 What food, art or music do you enjoy that is from a different culture?
- 7 What role do the media play in creating false stereotypes about Australians?

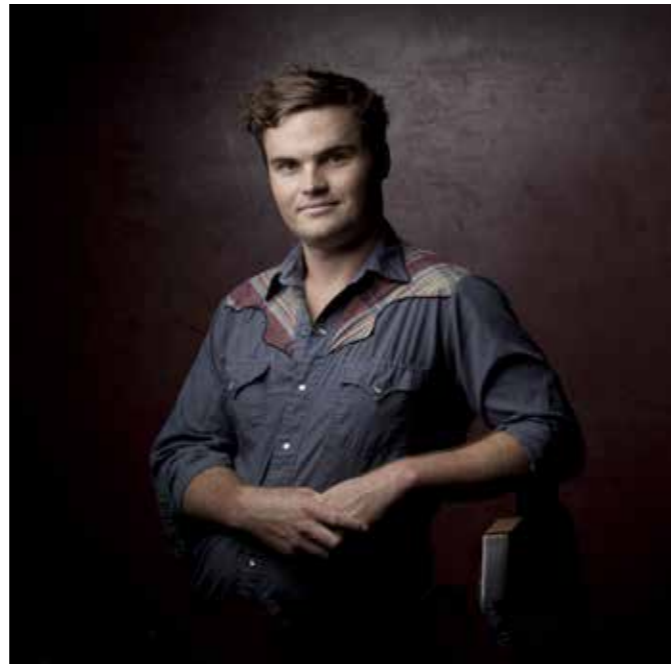
Evaluate and create

- 8 For each of the statements in Source 4, state whether they are true, true to some extent or false. Write a sentence for each explaining why you think some people might have this perception of Australia and Australians.
- 9 Watch an episode of a soap opera such as *Neighbours* or *Home and Away*.
 - a Where is the soap opera set? Is it typical of an Australian suburb or town?
 - b How are Australian women and men portrayed in the soap opera? Is this portrayal reflective of real Australian men and women you know?
 - c Is cultural diversity reflected in the actors chosen for the soap opera?
 - d Do you think that not reflecting diversity in our television programs and advertisements is a form of discrimination?

21B rich task

The power of social media campaigns

Throughout history there have been notable leaders who have sought social and political change. Famous social **agitators** include Nelson Mandela, who fought to break the system of **apartheid** in South Africa, and Mahatma Gandhi who fought for India's independence. A social agitator stirs the emotions of others in order to seek desired change. Mother Teresa is another person who sought change, committing her life to helping the poor people of Kolkata in India.



Source 3 Chris Raine set up his own blog about how he gave up alcohol for the year.

Agitating for change is what many volunteer organisations do, whether it be raising money for cancer research or ensuring the poor have access to food, shelter and clothing. Everyday people can seek change through volunteering their services.

Chris Raine is a young Australian fighting for a social cause that started with a desire to improve his own life and change the drinking culture within Australia. In 2008 he decided to give up alcohol for a year and wrote a blog about his experiences. Now he has over 200 000 followers and a website called *Hello Sunday Morning*.

Chris decided to do something about his own drinking habits, tired of waking up on a Sunday morning with a hangover. He had read that alcohol is responsible for the deaths of over 260 young Australians annually, not to mention the health and social costs associated with sustained use of alcohol. In 2012, Chris was a national finalist in the Young Australian of the Year awards for his work as an anti-binge-drinking campaigner.

Source 2 Mother Teresa's work on behalf of the poor in Kolkata was so well-known that her life and work were commemorated in many countries through artworks such as paintings, statues and postage stamps.



Source 1 Nelson Mandela fought to rid South Africa of apartheid.



skilldrill: Reasoning and interpretation

Developing a plan for action to respond to a civics and citizenship issue

Have you heard of the saying, 'failing to plan is planning to fail'? Most of us understand that things don't just happen unless we have a plan. Planning takes some time at the beginning of a project but once complete it provides important signposts to enable us to reach our end goal. Follow the eight-step approach for developing a plan. If you need to, make a visual presentation of your plan by using a flow chart, a Gantt chart (a bar chart displaying a project's schedule) or a spreadsheet.

Step 1 Set a goal. What is the end result you would like to achieve? Your goal, for example, may be to reduce your impact on the environment, help a charity, or write a blog to raise awareness about the dangers of using a mobile phone while driving.

Step 2 Decide how you will measure success. You can measure success in many ways. For example, reducing your environmental impact might be measured by reduction in non-recyclable garbage. Or, helping a charity might be measured in dollars raised or time spent giving assistance.

Step 3 Establish tasks. List what you need to do in order to turn your goal into a plan of action. For example, tasks to reduce your impact on the environment may include installing a compost bin, growing your own food, not buying packaged foods, and using recyclable shopping bags.

Step 4 Prioritise tasks. Look through your list of tasks and rate them on a scale of 1–10 to identify the most important tasks.

Step 5 Break each task down into smaller tasks.

For example, installing a compost bin may mean purchasing the bin first, deciding where it is best placed and then installing it in the garden.

Step 6 Add time frames for each task. This might involve estimating how much time each task will take and identifying a date when you could complete them.

Step 7 Allocate tasks. If you are working in a group, think about each member's skills and allocate jobs accordingly. Try to make sure workload is spread evenly.

Step 8 Monitor task completion. Regularly check the time Reasoning Interpretation frames you set in Step 6 to ensure you are on schedule.

Apply the skill

- Develop a plan that responds to a civics and citizenship issue. Brainstorm what a civics and citizenship issue is. Think about whether there are any issues with regard to voting you would like to consider. For example, you might start a campaign to raise awareness about the importance of enrolling to vote. Remember that citizenship can include taking social responsibility, so think about something you feel passionate about, whether it is reducing your own environmental impact on the Earth, or simply doing something unexpectedly helpful for someone else in your community.
- Use the eight-step approach for developing a plan outlined above and then, in consultation with your teacher, talk about putting that plan into action.

Extend your understanding

- Undertake research about a person you admire who has agitated for social, political or environmental change. You could choose from the following list or choose an entirely different person.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| – Bill and Melinda Gates | – Mother Teresa | – Mary Harris 'Mother' Jones | – Florence Nightingale |
| – Sir Bob Geldof | – Nelson Mandela | – Martin Luther King | – Helen Keller |
| – Al Gore | – Mahatma Gandhi | – Aung San Suu Kyi | – Eddie Mabo |