

# Parliament of Victoria Embracing complexity

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Community Engagement

APEC DECEMBER 2022

# • Our approach

Prioritising teacher capacity-building over direct student engagement

- ***A high number of teachers teaching civics and citizenship 'out of field'***

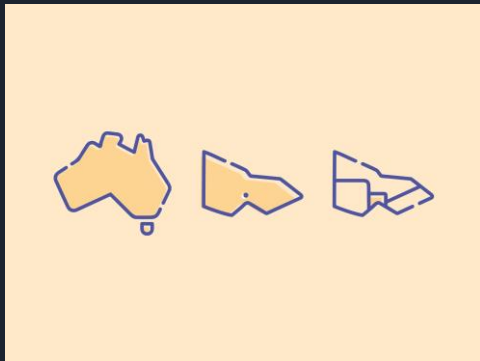
Focusing on issues that provide opportunities to demonstrate connection to and relevance of parliament to students' lives

- ***Students are politically minded but perhaps unsure how to engage***

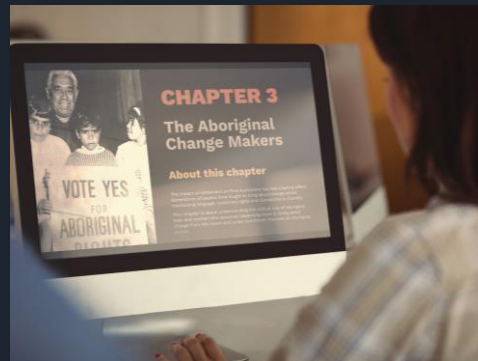
Ensuring resources and programs are flexible and adaptable

- ***Radically diverse social, cultural and economic contexts in classrooms across the state***

# Three examples



Three levels of government flashcards



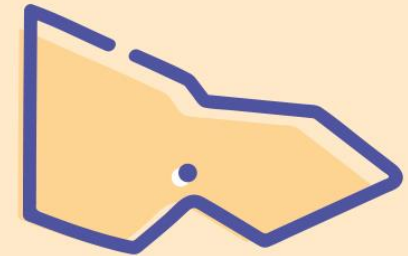
Aboriginal Change Makers



Law reform case study: Medically Supervised Injecting Centres

# Three levels of government flashcards

Starting conversations about our connections to government



# Three levels of government



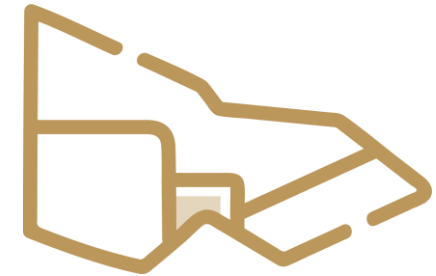
## Federal

The federal parliament has authority over services and matters that affect the whole country.



## State

States and territories have authority over services and matters that affect the state



## Local

local councils make local laws but have no constitutional Independence, therefore local laws cannot duplicate or contradict a federal or state law.

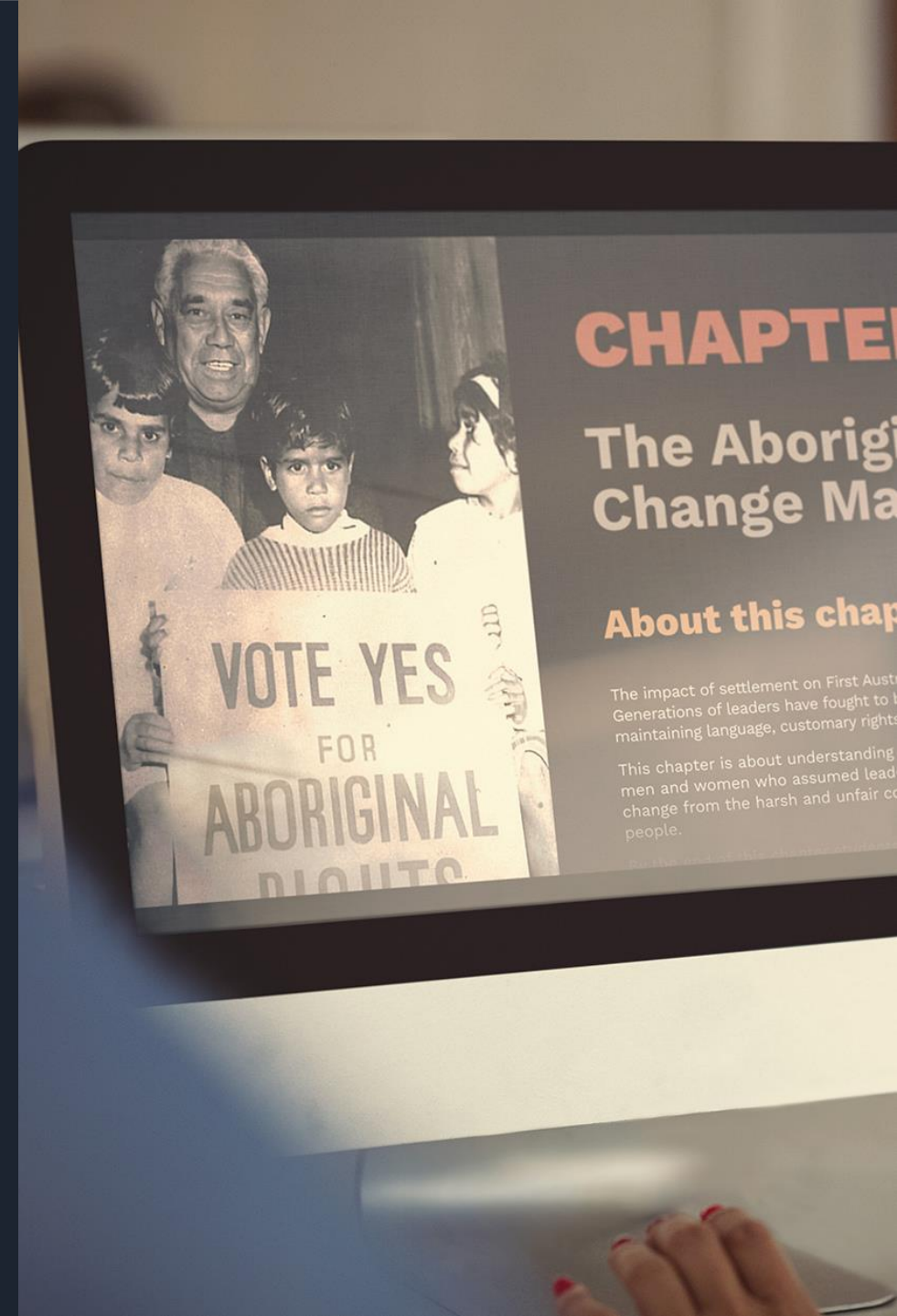
# Activity wrap-up

- How can we make activities more complex?
  - If you needed to remove a level of government, which level would it be. How would you reallocate the services/responsibilities?
  - If you needed to add a level of government, what would that look like? What services/responsibilities would you give that level of government?
  - If you were able to reassign any and all responsibilities and services to any level of government, how would you reassign them?
  - Classify them into levels of government, and shared responsibilities.

# Aboriginal Change Makers

## Stories of Aboriginal self-determination and empowerment

- Exploring perspectives
- Using narratives
- Critical thinking and discussions





# Law reform case study

## Medically Supervised Injecting Centres

- VCE Legal Studies
- Focus on committees' role in law reform
- Influence of media, social media and people on law reform

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# Activity

In 2018 Victoria began a trialing of a Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) on the east side of the city. The trial was deemed successful, and the state government has proposed reform to the legislation to allow for additional MSICs, such as one on the west side of the city.

- 1) Each person in the group will select a stakeholder, a focus and an emotional motivation card
- 2) Present an argument based on the combination of cards in response to the scenario

# Activity wrap-up

Consider how the stakeholder perspectives might be represented:

- in the committee process
- when contacting a local MP
- By an MP when speaking to parliament

Add additional perspectives such as:

- A Member of Parliament
- Different views from the political spectrum

Modelling a second reading debate

# The issue with issues

Working within the context of parliament

- Consultation, buy-in and approvals

Navigating content considerations

- Form and function

Community expectations

- Balancing teacher/student needs with public perceptions



# Where to next ...

Continue to:

- Work with partner organisations to build teacher confidence
- Consult widely across parliament to build understanding of our approach
- Find additional ways to communicate about what's happening in parliament and how teachers can connect parliament to their classroom



# Resources

*A guide to challenging conversations*

<https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/teach-and-learn/Resources/a-guide-to-challenging-conversations>

*Contemporary issues in civics and citizenship*

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/foundation-10/resources/civics-and-citizenship/Pages/contemporaryissues.aspx>

# References

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