

# The Tiers of Government

Australia is a representative democracy. All Australians over 18 years old vote for people to represent them, and make decisions on their behalf. There are three levels of government in Australia, and we vote to elect representatives to each of these levels: federal, state or territory and local.

## Federal

The decision-making body of the federal government is Federal Parliament, which consists of two houses – the House of Representatives and the Senate. The leader of the federal government is called the Prime Minister. Australia's current Prime Minister is Scott Morrison, he is Australia's 30<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister.

The federal government's responsibilities include: foreign affairs, social security, industrial relations, trade, immigration, currency, defence.

## State & Territory

The decision-making body of state government is the state parliament which meets in the Parliament House of the particular state. Each state parliament, except for the Queensland Parliament, is made up of two houses. The leader of a state government is called the Premier. The leader of each territory government is called the Chief Minister. The current Premier of New South Wales is Gladys Berejiklian, she is New South Wales' 45<sup>th</sup> Premier.

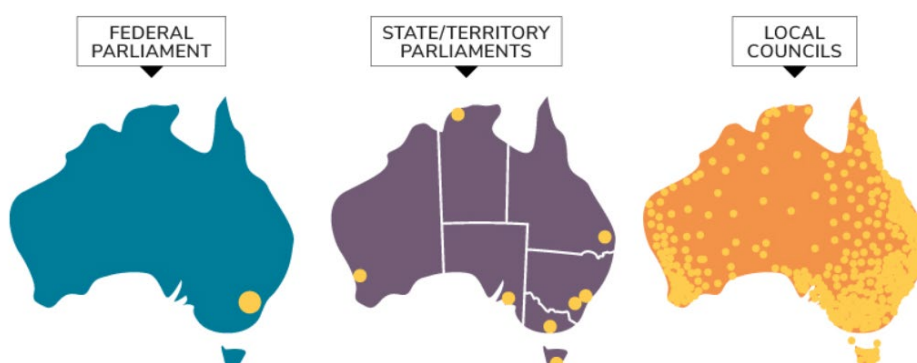
State and territory government responsibilities include: justice, consumer affairs, health, education, forestry, public transport, main roads.

## Local

The decision-making body of local government is usually called the city council or shire council. Councils are established by state governments to look after the particular needs of a city or local community. The head of the Council is the Mayor or Shire President. Blaxcell Street Public School is located in the Local Government Area of Cumberland City Council. The current Mayor of Cumberland City Council is Steve Christou.

Local government responsibilities include: local road maintenance, garbage collection, building regulations and land subdivisions, public health and recreation facilities such as swimming pools.

### THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA



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## Questions

1. How many levels of government are there in Australia?

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2. Who is the Prime Minister of Australia? (Circle the answer)

- Gladys Berejiklian

- Kobe Bryant

- Scott Morrison

3. The Federal government is in charge of immigration and defence.

True / False

4. Who is the current Premier of New South Wales?

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5. Which level of government is responsible for health and education?

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6. Blaxcell Street Public School is located in the Local Government Area of Cumberland City Council.

True / False