

# Glossary

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## A

### Act

A Law made by Parliament

### Actors

Influencers and decision makers who can help accomplish a goal.

### Advocate (Advocacy)

A person or group of people who are working to raise support for, or making a recommendation in relation to, a particular cause or policy.

### Agency

The capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices.

### Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration

A declaration that acknowledges that education has the power to transform lives and support young people to realise their potential. (See <https://www.dese.gov.au/indigenous-education/resources/alice-springs-mparntwe-education-declaration>)

### Amendment

Changing the words in a Bill

### Ask

A specific action that advocates would like a key decision maker to take. For example: When they made the 'ask' of their Mayor, she quickly agreed to support their request.

### Assent

When a bill has finally passed both Houses in identical form and been checked and certified accordingly by the Clerk of the House, it is presented to the Governor-General for assent. (See <https://www.aph.gov.au/infosheets/7>)

### Bill

A proposal for a Law

### Bipartisan

Agreement or cooperation by two political parties on a particular issue or policy

### Building Consensus

As a group, coming to agreement on a solution that everyone accepts.

## C

### Cabinet

Senior ministers responsible for controlling government policy selected by the Prime Minister (Commonwealth) or Premier (State)

### Campaigning

Getting support for yourself, your ideas, or the group you represent

### Civics

The study of the rights and obligations of citizens in society. The term derives from the Latin word *civicus*, meaning 'relating to a citizen'.

### Class Structure

A ranking of people according to their position in society

### Coalition

The joining of two or more political parties

### Commonwealth Parliament of Australia

The federal level of parliament consisting of the Queen represented by the Governor General and two Houses - The House of Representatives and the Senate. The parliament passes legislation. Proposed laws have to be agreed to by both Houses of Parliament to become law. (See [The Constitution: Full Description \(HTML version\)](#) | [PDF](#))

### **Community**

A group of people with a common characteristic (place, interest, history, etc.).

### **Compulsory**

Something that has to be done – ie voting in state and federal elections if you are over 18 years of age.

### **Consensus decision making**

A general agreement that is shared by everyone in a group

### **Conservative Parties**

Political Parties who support more traditional values and institutions

### **Constitution (Australia's)**

The set of basic principles and laws of the Australian Commonwealth that determine the powers and duties of government and guarantee certain rights to all citizens.

### **Constitutional Monarchy (Australia)**

A system of government in which the British Monarchy (the Queen represented by Australia's Governor General) shares power with a constitutionally organised government. (See [https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/House\\_of\\_Representatives/Powers\\_practice\\_and\\_procedure/00\\_-\\_Infosheets/Infosheet\\_20\\_-\\_The\\_Australian\\_system\\_of\\_government](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/House_of_Representatives/Powers_practice_and_procedure/00_-_Infosheets/Infosheet_20_-_The_Australian_system_of_government))

### **Councillor**

A person elected to represent a ward within a local council government area. (There are 68 councils in South Australia with the number of wards averaging between three and six representatives, determined by the populations of each).

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## **D**

### **Decision Maker/s**

The person or group with the power and responsibility to make the change envisaged.

### **Democracy**

A government in which people have a say on who governs them and how power is used by them directly, or indirectly through elected officials.

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## **E**

### **Election**

A formal and organised choice by vote of a person for a political office at the federal, state, territory or local level.

### **Electorate**

Geographic area of a certain number of people that a Member of Parliament represents. In 2021, South Australia had 10 federal electorates out of a total of 151 Australia wide with a total of 47 State electorates.

### **Electoral Roll**

The official list of eligible persons who may vote in an election

### **Executive (The)**

The arm of government that carries out the laws and puts services in place.

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## **F**

### **Federal Judicature (aka Judiciary)**

The High Court of Australia, which interprets and applies the law of Australia. High Court Judges are appointed by the Governor General in Council acting on the advice of the Federal Executive Council. (See [https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Work\\_of\\_the\\_Parliament/Forming\\_and\\_Governing\\_a\\_Nation/parl](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Work_of_the_Parliament/Forming_and_Governing_a_Nation/parl))

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## **G**

### **Global citizenship**

Our common rights and responsibilities as human beings living on Earth at this time, with a focus on our responsibilities to future generations

## **Government**

The political party with the most elected Members in Parliament or Council.

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## **I**

### **Individual Root Cause**

An issue that is caused by the actions of a single or individual person.

### **Influencer (aka helper)**

A person or group who can help convince a decision maker

### **International Governance**

The laws, norms, policies, rights and institutions that define, constitute, and mediate relations between citizens, societies, markets, and states in the world's international system of government.

### **Issues**

Topics for debate and problems to solve/resolve.

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## **L**

### **Legislator**

A member of a legislative body such as a senator or member of parliament

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## **M**

### **Mandatory**

A term often used instead of the word 'compulsory' in relation to voting laws in Australia.

### **Marginal Seats**

An electorate that could be won by a small change in voting pattern

### **Media**

Means of mass communication, especially television, radio, newspapers, and the Internet.

## **Member of Parliament**

A person elected to represent a group of people living in a particular electorate.

### **MPs**

Common acronym used to denote an elected Member of Parliament at Federal and State levels.

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## **P**

### **Parliament (in Australia)**

A legislative body with three functions: representing the electorate, making laws, and overseeing the government via hearings and inquiries.

### **Policy**

A position on an issue based on the principles a political party follows

### **Political Party**

An organised group of people seeking political power at elections

### **Polling Booth**

A place where people can vote in an election

### **Portfolio**

A Minister's area of responsibility as a member of Cabinet

### **Power**

The ability to control our circumstances and make things happen outside of ourselves.

### **Progressive Parties**

Political parties focused on social progress through change

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## R

### Reconciliation

The promotion and facilitation of respect, trust and positive relationships between the wider community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples who are recognised as Australia's First Nations and the Traditional Custodians.

### Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

A resource developed by Narragunnawali to help educators guide students in developing a greater understanding of reconciliation, including how to devise a RAP. (See <https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/raps/what-is-a-rap>)

### Representative Democracy

A system of government where people have a say on who governs them by exercising a right to vote. (Australia is a representative democracy)

### Responsibility

Duty to do something

### Responsible Government

The federal and state governments are responsible to Parliament and this can be seen particularly in Question Time. The Commonwealth and State Parliaments are responsible to the people who elect them to represent them and this is tested during an election when votes are made.

### Root Cause

The main reason why a problem exists.

### Regulations

A rule endorsed by government where there is an expectation of compliance (See [https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/Australian\\_Government\\_Guide\\_to\\_Regulation.pdf](https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/Australian_Government_Guide_to_Regulation.pdf))

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## S

### Safe Seat

An electorate where a sitting Member of Parliament has far more support than the opposition.

### Sitting Member

A current member of Parliament from a political party elected to represent the citizens of a particular electorate.

### System

Interacting groups or organisations that serve a common purpose or are influenced by related forces.

### Systemic Root Cause

A problem which is a consequence of issues inherent in the overall system, rather than due to a specific, individual, isolated factor.

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## U

### UNCRC

Acronym commonly used for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - an international human rights treaty that grants all children and young people (aged 17 and under) a comprehensive set of rights that the world's nations are expected to put in place and uphold.

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## V

### Voter

Someone entitled and enrolled to vote in elections (must be 18 years and over in Australia)

### Voting

Expressing a choice in a matter, such as by casting a ballot or vote.

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## W

### Wards

Local Councillors represent wards made up of groupings of suburbs within a council area.

### Westminster System

A type of a parliamentary system of government, first developed in England, that forms the basis upon which Australia's Parliamentary system is modelled.

### The Commissioner's Role

The South Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People is an independent statutory position, established under the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* ('the Act'). The Commissioner's role includes advocating for systemic change to policies, programs and practices that impact the rights, development and wellbeing of South Australia's children and young people. This work is informed by the experiences and issues of children and young people themselves, with a specific focus on those who struggle to have their voices heard.

The Commissioner's strategic agenda was formulated with direct input from children and young people. In particular children and young people asked the Commissioner to facilitate their involvement in decision making and to create opportunities for them to experience authentic participation in the adult world. The Commissioner is working with a number of partners on this agenda including ways in which children and young people can have input into the design and delivery of policies, processes and practices that relate to delivery of services aimed directly at them.

### Endnotes

- 1 The Centre for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement, (2013). [https://circle.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/2019-12/WP78\\_BuildingCaseActionCivics\\_2013.pdf](https://circle.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/2019-12/WP78_BuildingCaseActionCivics_2013.pdf)
- 2 Education Council <http://www.educationcouncil.edu.au/Alice-Springs--Mparntwe--Education-Declaration.aspx>
- 3 CASEL, (2021). Accessible at <https://casel.org/what-is-sel/>
- 4 Personal and Social Capabilities, 2021. Accessible at [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/general-capabilities/personal-and-social-capability/](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/general-capabilities/personal-and-social-capability/)
- 5 Graham, A., Truscott, J., & Simmons, C. A. (2018). Improving wellbeing through student participation at school: executive summary. Southern Cross University, Centre for Children and Young People. <https://doi.org/10.25918/report.11>
- 6 Dweck, C. S. (2006). *Mindset: The new psychology of success*. New York: Random House.

