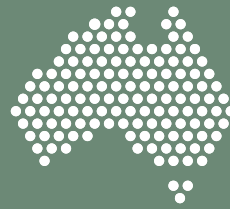




Teacher Reference Document 4



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Unit 1: Rules and Laws in Australia today – Year 4 – Civics and Citizenship
(C & C) Strand: Laws and Citizens

Topic 4.1: The difference between rules and laws and why laws apply to everyone in our society

Rules and laws - It's all garbage

Rules and laws affect us in different ways and at different levels. Sometimes they are very close to home – well, actually in our homes. They are the rules we apply to everyday living. Sometimes, they are quite distant. They are the rules that countries make for how they behave to each other and affect the world. But even these international rules, such as dealing with climate change, can have a big impact on our lives.

Each [level of government](#) within a country also has its own rules and laws. Australia is a federation. This means it is made up of one central level of government, known as the 'Commonwealth' or 'federal' government, and a second layer of government known as States and Territories. There are six States (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia) and two self-governing Territories (the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory). Each has an elected body that can make laws, known as a 'Parliament' or 'Legislature'.

In addition, the States and the Northern Territory have created their own third level of government, known as local government. It is comprised of lots of small local bodies, sometimes called the 'Local Council', and usually headed by a mayor.

This means that there are lots of different levels of authority that can make rules and laws that apply to us. Let's use the example of garbage to see how this works.

Home and school garbage rules

First, you most likely have a rule in your house that everyone needs to put their garbage in the bin. Rotting food can smell terrible if left lying around the house and even lead to disease. You probably have rules about taking out the garbage and

separating the recycling. Your school probably also has rules about putting garbage in the correct bin and not leaving litter in the playground.

Local Council

The local council is responsible for collecting the garbage. It also usually runs recycling facilities and in most places it will require separate bins to be used for recycling certain things, such as paper, cardboard, glass and plastic. If you get your recycling wrong, you might find a sign stuck on your bin warning you to do it correctly. If you keep putting the wrong things in the wrong bin, you might [receive a fine](#) as punishment, because you are breaking a law. Local councils also usually run a local tip and [recycling centres](#) for certain types of waste, such as computers, batteries, paint, mobile phones and printer cartridges.



Source: IStock



Source: iStock

State or Territory

Most of the laws about garbage, such as laws against littering and laws about recycling, are laws passed by the State or Territory Parliament. For example, [section 145](#) of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (NSW) says that it is an offence for a person to deposit litter in a public place, unless the litter is placed in a garbage bin. The maximum punishment for this offence is '20 penalty units', which (as at 2022) meant a fine of \$2,200. There is a more serious offence of '[aggravated littering](#)' which covers litter that causes danger or harm to persons, animals or property. For example, it would cover throwing a lit cigarette out a car window, which could cause a bushfire. It has a higher level of punishment, because it is more serious. Even more serious, however, is [illegal dumping](#) of waste, which can lead to time in prison.

In some places it is an offence for a person in charge of a dog to fail to pick up and remove its [dog droppings](#) from a public place. [Polluting](#) rivers and lakes with garbage is also an offence.

States and Territories may also have special emergency legislation to ensure that garbage collection is continued. There is an [Essential Services Act 1988](#) (NSW) which allows the Governor to declare that a state of emergency exists if certain essential services, such as garbage collection, cease operating.

It gives the Minister special powers to make sure the service starts working again.

Some States have [container deposit schemes](#) to encourage recycling of glass and plastic bottles.

Commonwealth

Commonwealth laws about garbage are more national or international in nature. For example, there is a [Protection of the Sea \(Prevention of Pollution from Ships\) Act 1983](#) (Cth). It turns into law some of Australia's promises that it made when agreeing to join the *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*. There are also laws about dealing with hazardous (i.e. dangerous) and radioactive waste, and when it can be sent to other countries. They turn Australia's responsibilities under international treaties about hazardous and radioactive waste into law within Australia.

The Commonwealth Government also joins with the States, Territories and local government in setting out [cooperative plans](#) for environmental protection and dealing with garbage. An example is the '[National Waste Policy Action Plan](#)'. It sets a number of targets including:

- banning the export (ie sending overseas) of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres;
- reducing the total waste generated in Australia by 10 per cent per person by 2030;



Source: IStock

- significantly increasing the use of recycled material by governments and industry;
- phasing out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025; and
- making information available to the public to help people make better decisions about waste.

The Commonwealth Government has also created an Australian Recycling Investment Fund which is aimed at increasing the amount of recycling that occurs and turning waste into useful products rather than simply burying it. In 2020 the Commonwealth Parliament passed a law called the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* (Cth) which has the [aim](#) of reducing the impact on human and environmental health of waste and reducing the amount of greenhouse gases coming from dealing with waste.

International

Countries get together and make agreements, known as 'treaties', about how to protect the environment and deal with waste. There are many treaties dealing with pollution, recycling and processing waste, as these are issues that affect the whole world and need international cooperation.

Garbage - there is more to it than you thought

So rules and laws about garbage start in your home and go all the way to international agreements and the United Nations. Garbage is more important than you thought.



Topic 4.1

The difference between rules and laws and why laws apply to everyone in our society



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Lesson Six: It's all Garbage: How does what I do at home, impact on local, state, national and international law?

Time/Lesson	Assumed Prior Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 hour	Students' understanding of general rules and laws observed by themselves, family members and people they know.
Rationale	Learning Goal
To understand that there are different levels of government within our country that have their own rules and laws.	To <u>identify</u> the different levels of government, and the ways rules and laws affect us in different ways at the different levels of government through looking at how garbage is treated and handled at each level.
Resources	Success Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Smartboard with access to PowerPoint to guide discussionsWhiteboard, Whiteboard markersTalking ball/talking stickResource #1 (badges prepared on different coloured cards)Resource #2 (prepared as a pack for students to explore)Teacher Reference materials	Students can articulate the different levels of government, and demonstrate how a rule that we may follow at home, can transfer to different contexts at the different levels of government.
Teaching Reference Documents:	
<u>TRD 4 Rules and Laws – It's All Garbage</u>	
Tuning In	
<u>Activate Prior Knowledge</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Teacher revisits previous lessons, by referring back to display of 'thoughts' around rules, and the 'big juicy questions' they have posed about rules.Teacher displays the question 'How do local, state, national and international law impact what I do at home?' (<u>4.1. Lesson 6: Resource 1</u>)Teacher explains to the students that today the students are going to explore the different levels of government, and how rules we use at home can be affected by laws at local, State, Commonwealth and international levels of government. (<u>4.1. Lesson 6: Resource 2</u>)	

Teacher Instruction

- Teacher reviews with the students, the different levels of government by referring to the infographic (4.1. Lesson 6: Resource 3)
- Teacher sets the scene for the lesson, by displaying an image of a household bin, and asking the question:
 - o 'What rules do you have about garbage at home?'
 - o 'Why do you have this rule?'
 - o 'Who enforces the rule?'
 - o 'What is the consequence for not following this rule?'
- Teacher explains that rules and laws about garbage are different within the different levels of government.

Group/Independent Learning

- Teacher splits the class into four groups, giving each of them a Local Council, State or Territory, Commonwealth or International badge (you can copy these onto different colours to determine the different groups). (4.1. Lesson 6. 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d)
- Teacher then gives each group a set of cards with facts, QR codes with links to images/videos/websites, or infographics. Students spend time reading and exploring the responsibility of their level of government, when making and enforcing laws around Garbage. (4.1. Lesson 6. 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d)
- Teacher explains to the students that they will be working in their teams to create a Poster that includes images, diagrams and facts, which explains:
 - o What the garbage laws are at their level of government
 - o What the consequences are of breaking those laws
 - o How those laws are helping us nationally and globally
- Students work collaboratively on their poster, nominating a speaker to present their poster to the class at the end of the lesson.

Wrapping it up

- Teacher displays the four posters in the classroom, and summarises what the students had discussed through their research and presentation of their posters.
- Students sit in a circle, and using a talking ball/stick, spend time answering the question 'I think garbage laws are...'
- Look at the questions posed in the first lesson, and ask students if they have managed to answer any of the questions during today's lesson.
- Add any new words to the classroom Word Wall.

Differentiation

Support

Prepare your four groups ahead of time, to ensure that students who may require support, are paired with peers who can support them in their learning. Encourage students who struggle with literacy, to be involved in the drawing of images on their poster.

Extension

Ask students to explore some of the environmental laws at the Commonwealth level or a treaty at the international level. Encourage them to be the 'expert' and share what they have learnt with either their class, or an environmental committee at their school.

Assessment strategies

There are plenty of opportunities to draw upon HASS skills in this lesson, and this can be observed through a whole class checklist ([4.1. Lesson 6. Teacher Resource 1](#)) or individual Assessment Rubric that is used throughout the entirety of the unit ([4.1. Lesson 6. Teacher Resource 2](#))

Additional ideas for resources and extension activities:

Each group should have badges that have official looking images, perhaps with local, State/Territory, Commonwealth or international symbols on them. ([4.1. Lesson 6. Resource 1](#))

Each group should have cards as outlined above in ([4.1. Lesson 6. Resource 2](#)) that have the facts clearly stated. The links could be a QR code or students could have 'packs' that contain some of the documents or infographics.



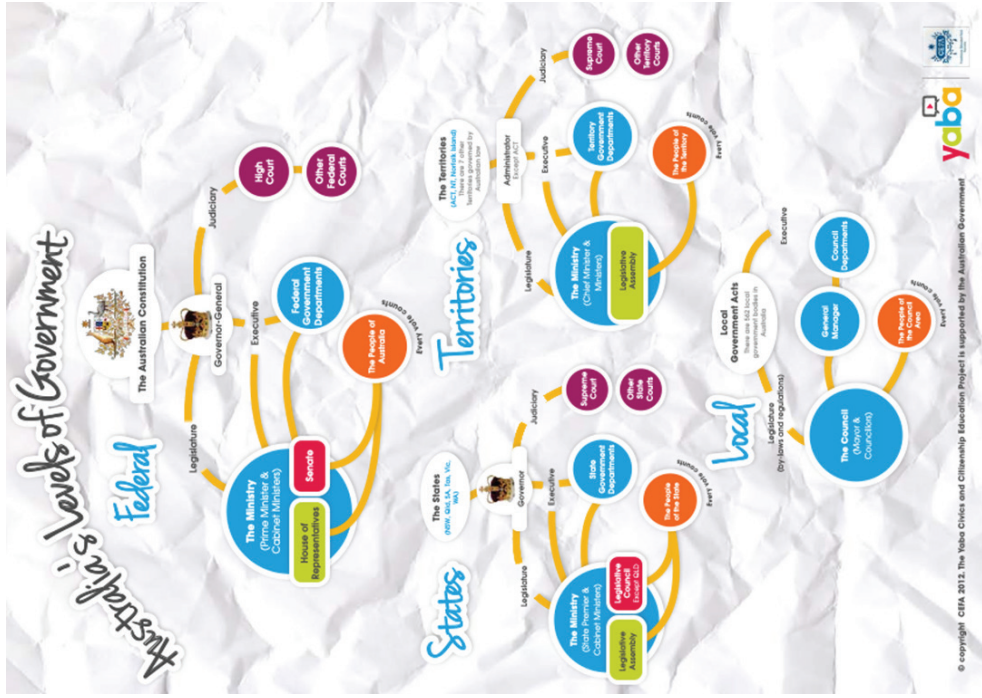
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How do local, state, national and international laws affect what I do at home?





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Our levels of Government

4.1. Lesson 6. Resource 2



http://www.australianconstitutioncentre.org.au/uploads/1/2/0/0/120053113/australias_levels_of_government_diagram.pdf

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What rules do you have about garbage at home?





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Local Council Badges

<p>I am a LOCAL COUNCILLOR and I can help to make laws about garbage for my council or local government area.</p>	<p>I am a LOCAL COUNCILLOR and I can help to make laws about garbage for my council or local government area.</p>
<p>I am a LOCAL COUNCILLOR and I can help to make laws about garbage for my council or local government area.</p>	<p>I am a LOCAL COUNCILLOR and I can help to make laws about garbage for my council or local government area.</p>





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State or Territory Badges

<p>I am a STATE or TERRITORY Member of Parliament , and I can help to make laws about garbage for my State or Territory.</p>	<p>I am a STATE or TERRITORY Member of Parliament , and I can help to make laws about garbage for my State or Territory.</p>
<p>I am a STATE or TERRITORY Member of Parliament , and I can help to make laws about garbage for my State or Territory.</p>	<p>I am a STATE or TERRITORY Member of Parliament , and I can help to make laws about garbage for my State or Territory.</p>





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Commonwealth Badges

I am a COMMONWEALTH Member
of Parliament and , and I can help
make laws about garbage for the
whole nation.

I am a COMMONWEALTH Member
of Parliament and , and I can help
make laws about garbage for the
whole nation.

I am a COMMONWEALTH Member
of Parliament and , and I can help
make laws about garbage for the
whole nation.

I am a COMMONWEALTH Member
of Parliament and , and I can help
make laws about garbage for the
whole nation.





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International Badges

<p>I am an Australian Representative at the UNITED NATIONS and I can help make international agreements about garbage.</p>	<p>I am an Australian Representative at the UNITED NATIONS and I can help make international agreements about garbage.</p>
<p>I am an Australian Representative at the UNITED NATIONS and I can help make international agreements about garbage.</p>	<p>I am an Australian Representative at the UNITED NATIONS and I can help make international agreements about garbage.</p>





Local Council Garbage Laws

Local Council is responsible for collecting garbage.	The Local Council requires you to put your garbage in separate bins for paper, cardboard, glass and plastic.
If you get your recycling wrong, you will find a sign stuck on your bin warning you to do it correctly.	You might find signs on your bins that help you to dispose of your waste correctly.
If you keep putting the wrong things in the wrong bin, you might receive a fine as punishment, because you are breaking the law.	Local councils have recycling centres for certain types of waste, such as computers, batteries, paint, mobile phones and printer cartridges.
Mornington Peninsula Shire could slap Recycling Wrongdoers with \$660 fines https://www.9news.com.au/national/mornington-peninsula-shire-could-slap-recycling-wrongdoers-with-660-fines/43cb8546-7e2c-448d-b417-221388c07c8d	NSW Recycling Centre https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Environment_Waste/Waste_Recycling/Community_Recycling_Centre
Brisbane City Council Garbage Bin App https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.application.wast.einfo&hl=en	





State or Territory Garbage Laws

<p>Most of the laws about garbage such as laws against littering and laws about recycling are laws passed by a State or Territory Parliament.</p>	<p>Section 145 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW) says that it is an offence for a person to deposit litter in a public place, unless the litter is placed in a garbage bin. http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/poteoa1997455/s145.html</p>
<p>The maximum punishment for this offence is '20 penalty units,' which (at 2022) meant a fine of \$2 200.</p>	<p>There is a more serious offence in New South Wales of 'aggravated littering' which covers litter that causes danger or harm to a person, animal or property. http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/poteoa1997455/s145a.html</p>
<p>Throwing a lit cigarette out of a car window, which could cause a bushfire has a higher level of punishment because it is more serious.</p>	<p>Leaving a syringe out on the street which could prick a child and give them disease, has a higher level of punishment because it is more serious.</p>
<p>Even more serious is illegal dumping of waste, which can lead to time in prison. https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/litter-and-illegal-dumping/illegal-dumping-laws-penalties</p>	<p>In some places it is an offence for a person in charge of a dog to fail to pick up and remove its dog poo from a public place. http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/caa1998174/s20.html</p>
<p>Brisbane City Council Garbage Bin App https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.application.wasteinfo&hl=en</p>	<p>Polluting Rivers and lakes with garbage is also an offence. http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/wa191283/s21a.html</p>





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Commonwealth Garbage Laws

<p>Commonwealth laws about garbage are more national or international in nature.</p>	<p>The <i>Protection of the Sea (Prevention of Pollution from Ships) Act 1983</i> is a law that was made by Australia when agreeing to join the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.</p>
<p>There are laws about dealing with hazardous and radioactive waste, and when it can be sent to other countries.</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Government also joins with States, Territories and Local Government in setting out Cooperative Plans for environmental protection and dealing with garbage. https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Inclus try_Innovation_Science_and_Resources/WasteandRecycling/Report/section?id=committees%2Freportrep%2F024400%2F73433&footnote1ref</p>
<p>National Waste Policy Action Plan http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/a32c995e-a6d4-42e3-acfa-066bd21a3aac/files/national-plastics-plan-summary-fs.pdf</p>	<p>Australian Recycling Investment Fund Aimed at increasing the amount of recycling that occurs and turning waste into useful products rather than simply burying it.</p>





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International Garbage Agreements

<p>Countries get together and make agreements, known as 'treaties' about how to protect the environment and deal with waste.</p>	<p>There are many treaties dealing with pollution, recycling and processing waste, as these are issues that affect the whole world and need international cooperation. http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/2b17ae2b-485b-44cb-ad55-b7333c077dac/files/waste-related-international-obligations-overview.pdf</p>
<p>Rules and laws about garbage that start in your home, go all the way to international agreements and the United Nations.</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Government also joins with States, Territories and Local Government in setting out Cooperative Plans for environmental protection and dealing with garbage. https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Inclus try_Innovation_Science_and_Resources/WasteandRecycling/Report/section?id=committees%2Freportrep%2F024400%2F73433&footnote1ref</p>
<p>United Nations https://news.un.org/en/tags/waste</p>	



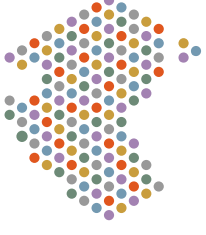


Suggested Resources for It's All Garbage

Each group should have badges that have official looking images, perhaps with local, state/territory, commonwealth or international symbols on them. (Resource #1)

Each group should have cards (as outlined above in Resource #2) that have the facts clearly stated, perhaps the links could be a QR code. Alternatively, students could have 'packs' that have some of the documents or infographics in them.





HASS Skills Rubric

	A	B	C	D	E
Questioning	Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues (ACHASSI073 - Scootle)				
Researching	Locate and collect information and data from different sources, including observations (ACHASSI074 - Scootle) Record, sort and represent data and the location of places and their characteristics in different formats, including simple graphs, tables and maps, using discipline-appropriate conventions (ACHASSI075 - Scootle) Sequence information about people's lives and events (ACHASSI076 - Scootle)				
Analyzing	Examine information to identify different points of view and distinguish facts from opinions (ACHASSI077 - Scootle) Interpret data and information displayed in different formats, to identify and describe distributions and simple patterns (ACHASSI078 - Scootle)				
Evaluating and Reflecting	Draw simple conclusions based on analysis of information and data (ACHASSI079 - Scootle) Interact with others with respect to share points of view (ACHASSI080 - Scootle) Reflect on learning to propose actions in response to an issue or challenge and consider possible effects of proposed actions (ACHASSI081 - Scootle)				
Communicating	Present ideas, findings and conclusions in texts and modes that incorporate digital and non-digital representations and discipline-specific terms (ACHASSI082 - Scootle)				



Topic 4.1: Lesson Seven

Different laws and different governments



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Time/Lesson	Learning Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 hour/ 1 Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To understand that Australia has three levels of governmentTo distinguish the types of laws made by each level of government
Rationale	Success Criteria
Students should understand the different levels of government and how laws at each level can apply to them. With this understanding, students can be active citizens by approaching the appropriate type of government when concerned with particular areas of law.	Students can <u>explain</u> the three distinct levels of government and why they exist. Students can <u>identify</u> and <u>distinguish</u> the types of law each level of government makes.
Teaching Reference Document	
TRD 4: Rules and laws-It's all Garbage: (Revision TRD from Topic 4.1: The difference between Rules and laws and why laws apply to everyone in society)	
Resources	
PEO's Three levels of government: governing Australia	
VIDEOS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">BTN's Levels of Government (3:38)Three Levels of Government (2:22)	
WEBSITE:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">PEO's Three levels of government: governing AustraliaONLINE GAME:<ul style="list-style-type: none">PEO's Three levels of governmentPEV's LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL? PRINT OUT ACTIVITY:	
COMPLAINING ABOUT GOVERNMENTS (see below) ENRICHMENT:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">AEC's Three levels of governmentQLD Parliament's Three levels of governmentNSW Parliament's Three levels of governmentPEV's Teacher's Guide	

Tuning In

- **BRAINSTORM:** what laws do you need to follow when riding a bike?
- Included in this should be: wearing bike helmets (State/Territory law), following road rules (State/Territory law) and riding in a bike lane (State/Territory law)
- **EXPLAIN:** When riding a bike, you are following the laws of three different types of government: federal, state and local. Federal laws set consumer and safety standards that mean your bike helmet must be made in a particular way to be safe. States and Territories determine the road rules that bike riders must follow. If you're riding along a bike lane, it was most likely provided by a local council under local regulations.

Teacher Instruction

- **WATCH:** [BTN's Levels of Government](#) (3:38)
- **DISCUSSION QUESTION:** According to this video, how was federation relevant to having 3 levels of government?
- Go through the graphics on PEO's [Three levels of government: governing Australia](#) to explain the three levels and the different types of laws each level of government makes.

Group Independent Learning

- IN PAIRS: Complete COMPLAINING ABOUT GOVERNMENTS (see Resource 4.1 Resource 7)
- Go through ANSWERS
- PLAY: PEO's [Three levels of government](#) game

Wrapping It Up

- **WATCH:** PEO's [Three Levels of Government](#) (2:22). This reiterates points already made.
- **EXPLAIN:** Sometimes the laws of different levels of governments address the same subject. If they conflict, section 109 of the Constitution says the federal law will prevail.
- **DISCUSSION:** Why do you think the federal law wins over the state law?

Differentiation/Enrichment

- AEC's [Three levels of government](#)
- QLD Parliament's [Three levels of government](#)
- NSW Parliament's [Three levels of government](#)
- PEV's [Teacher's Guide](#)

Assessment Strategies

Collect COMPLAINING ABOUT GOVERNMENTS and check accuracy for understanding.



Additional Resource 4.1 for Lesson 7

COMPLAINING ABOUT GOVERNMENTS

In the following 3 scenarios, each of these people is complaining about something. That 'something' requires more than one government to respond to their complaint. Underline/Highlight the parts of their speech that apply to each type of government: red for federal, blue for state and green for local. Then write in the box the relevant types of government mentioned for each person.

PERSON 1

The government really needs to do something about all these migrants. I can't get a seat on the tram!



PERSON 2

The government must take action on the Paris Climate Change Agreement! It's ridiculous that we don't have recycling for single use plastics!



PERSON 3

I want a skate park near my house. I'm sick of the cops always busting us up when we're at the car park.



Person	Types of Government
Person 1	
Person 2	
Person 3	

ANSWERS

Person	Types of Government
Person 1	1st sentence: federal, 2nd sentence: local
Person 2	1st sentence: federal, 2nd sentence: State
Person 3	1st sentence: local, 2nd sentence: State