

What is
Democracy?



What do you know about Democracy?

The idea of democracy originated from Ancient Greece. The word “democracy” comes from two Greek words: “demos” meaning people and “kratos” meaning rule.

Australia is a democratic country, where Australian citizens aged 18 and over have the responsibility and right to vote for the members of the Local, State and Federal Government.

Democracy through time

507 B.C.

Ancient Greece



1215

Magna Carta



1901

Australia's Constitution



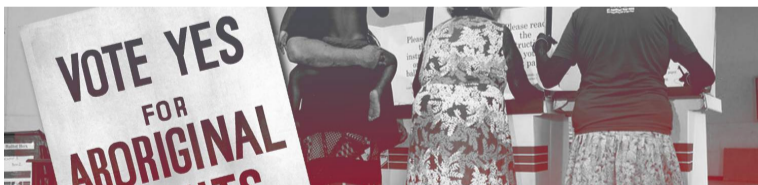
1902

Women in all of Australia can vote



1962

First Nations Australians gain the right to vote in federal elections

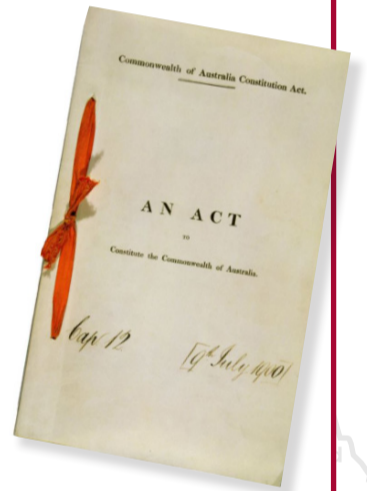
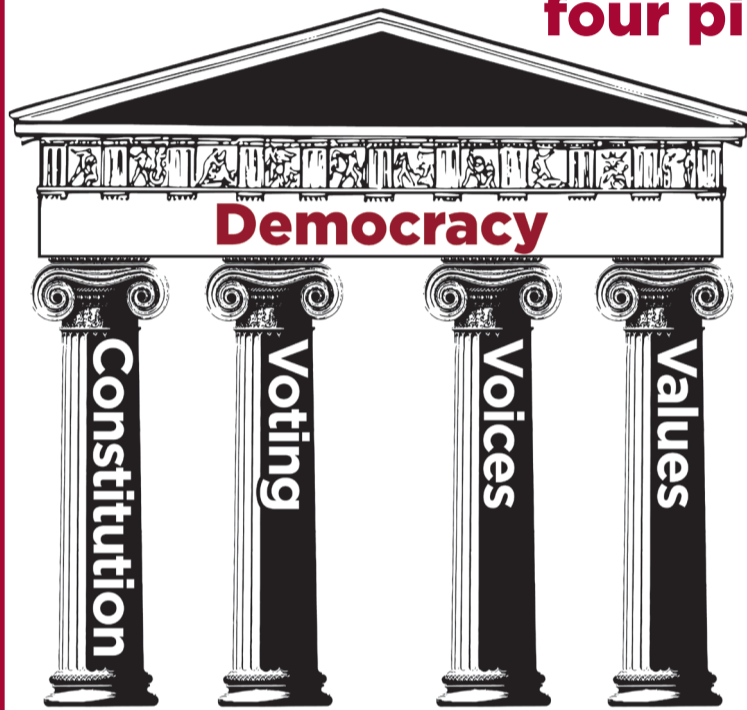


Today

Democracy in Australia has transformed over time, allowing people more rights and freedoms



Our democracy is protected by the four pillars below



Constitution: The Australian Constitution came into effect in 1901 and is a rule book for the Australian Government. It explains how Federal Parliament is set up, and how they make laws.

Voting: We have the right to vote for representatives in Federal, State and Territory Parliaments. We can also vote for Local Government.

Voices: We have the right to have our voices heard by the Government if we are not happy with certain laws or decisions made. This is known as “Freedom of Speech”. We are free within the bounds of the law to say or write what we think as long as it is factual and not harmful.

Values: Values are the beliefs and ideas that are important to us. Australia's democracy aims to uphold certain values, such as the ones below.

Freedom

Fairness

Justice

Equality

Respect

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The Constitutional Centre of WA

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Government of Western Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.



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