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 vthe members of the Local, State and Federal Government.

Our democracy is protected by the four pillars below

Democracy

Constitution | Voting | Voices | Values

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.
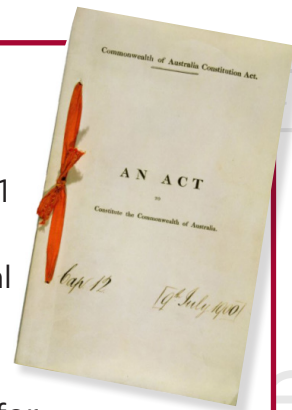
| Freedom | Fairness | Justice | Equality | Respect |

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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