

# YEAR 9 THE LAW AND YOU

Building on prior knowledge about government and democracy in Australia, students will develop the skills necessary to become active and informed citizens within a parliamentary democracy. Through the lens of a current community issue, students will learn how to enact positive change in society via the processes of effective decision-making and critical thinking. As part of this, students will learn how to effectively voice their opinions in society by developing a creative campaign on their chosen issue. Students will also explore the operation of a range of legal institutions, such as parliament, the courts and the police. Through developing a comprehensive understanding of such institutions, students will be able to recognise how the law applies to everyday people.

## **Government and Democracy**

Students will learn to:

- Discuss the freedoms that enable active participation in Australia's democracy within the bounds of the law, including freedom of speech, association, assembly, religion and movement
- Explain how citizens can participate in Australia's democracy, including the use of the electoral system, contact with their elected representatives, use of lobby groups, interest groups and direct action
- Discuss the role of political parties and independent representatives in Australia's system of government, including the formation of governments, and explain the process through which government policy is shaped and developed
- Analyse how citizens' political choices are shaped, including the influence of the media

## **Laws and Citizens**

Students will learn to:

- Describe the key features of Australia's court system, including jurisdictions and how courts apply and interpret the law, resolve disputes and make law through judgments.
- Explain how and why laws are enforced and describe the roles and responsibilities of key personnel in law enforcement, and in the legal system.
- Identify how values can promote cohesion within Australian society, including the values of freedom, respect, inclusion, civility, responsibility, compassion, equality and a 'fair go'