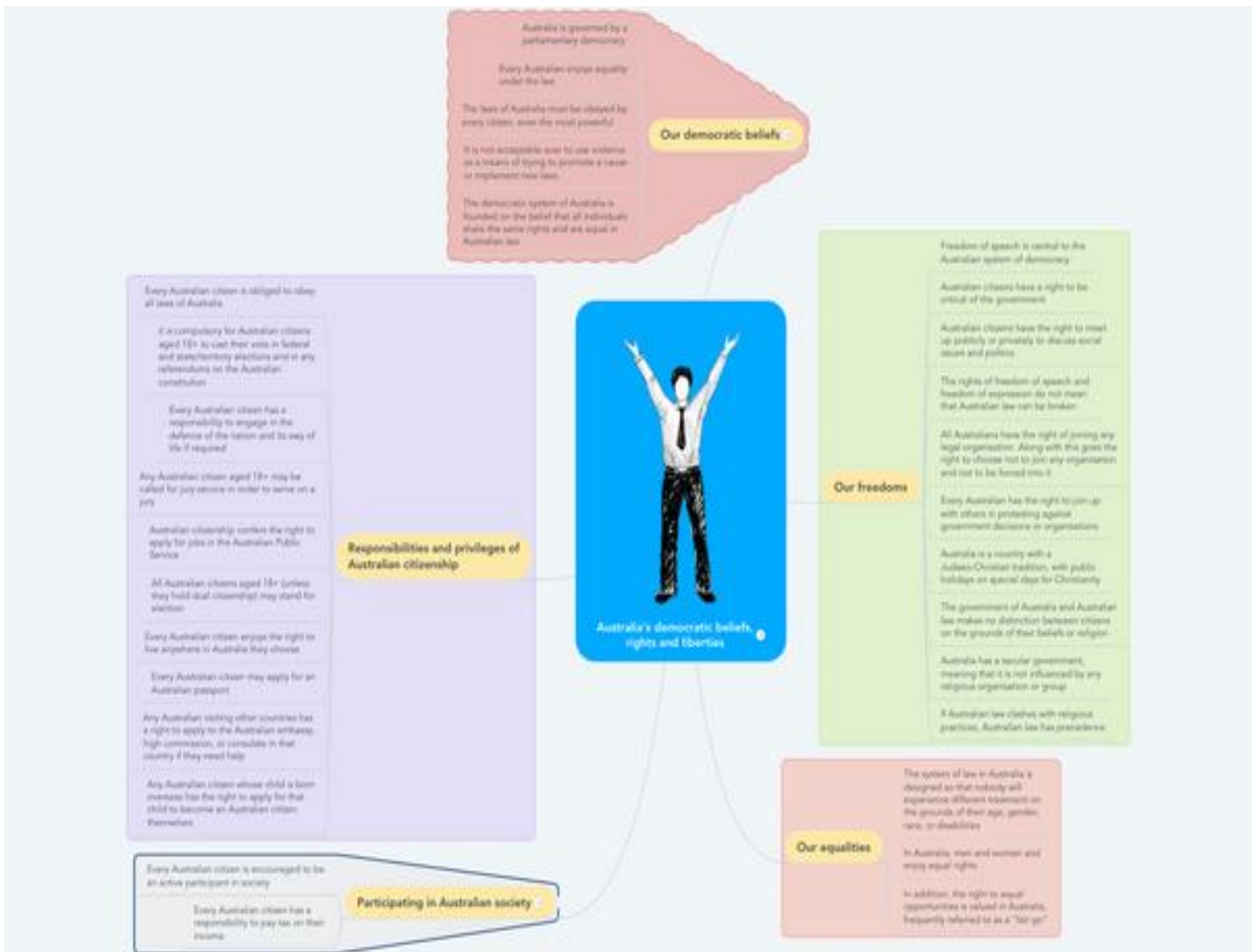




Australia's democratic beliefs, rights and liberties





1 Our democratic beliefs

- 1.1 Australia is governed by a parliamentary democracy
- 1.2 Every Australian enjoys equality under the law
- 1.3 The laws of Australia must be obeyed by every citizen, even the most powerful
- 1.4 It is not acceptable ever to use violence as a means of trying to promote a cause or implement new laws
- 1.5 The democratic system of Australia is founded on the belief that all individuals share the same rights and are equal in Australian law



2 Our freedoms

- 2.1 Freedom of speech is central to the Australian system of democracy
- 2.2 Australian citizens have a right to be critical of the government
- 2.3 Australian citizens have the right to meet up publicly or privately to discuss social issues and politics
- 2.4 The rights of freedom of speech and freedom of expression do not mean that Australian law can be broken
- 2.5 All Australians have the right of joining any legal organisation. Along with this goes the right to choose not to join any organisation and not to be forced into it
- 2.6 Every Australian has the right to join up with others in protesting against government decisions or organisations
- 2.7 Australia is a country with a Judaeo-Christian tradition, with public holidays on special days for Christianity
- 2.8 The government of Australia and Australian law makes no distinction between citizens on the grounds of their beliefs or religion
- 2.9 Australia has a secular government, meaning that it is not influenced by any religious organisation or group
- 2.10 If Australian law clashes with religious practices, Australian law has precedence

3 Our equalities

- 3.1 The system of law in Australia is designed so that nobody will experience different treatment on the grounds of their age, gender, race, or disabilities
- 3.2 In Australia, men and women and enjoy equal rights
- 3.3 In addition, the right to equal opportunities is valued in Australia, frequently referred to as a "fair go"



4 Responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship

- 4.1 Every Australian citizen is obliged to obey all laws of Australia
- 4.2 it is compulsory for Australian citizens aged 18+ to cast their vote in federal and state/territory elections and in any referendums on the Australian constitution
- 4.3 Every Australian citizen has a responsibility to engage in the defence of the nation and its way of life if required
- 4.4 Any Australian citizen aged 18+ may be called for jury service in order to serve on a jury
- 4.5 Australian citizenship confers the right to apply for jobs in the Australian Public Service
- 4.6 All Australian citizens aged 18+ (unless they hold dual citizenship) may stand for election
- 4.7 Every Australian citizen enjoys the right to live anywhere in Australia they choose
- 4.8 Every Australian citizen may apply for an Australian passport
- 4.9 Any Australian visiting other countries has a right to apply to the Australian embassy, high commission, or consulate in that country if they need help
- 4.10 Any Australian citizen whose child is born overseas has the right to apply for that child to become an Australian citizen themselves



5 Participating in Australian society

- 5.1 Every Australian citizen is encouraged to be an active participant in society

- 5.2 Every Australian citizen has a responsibility to pay tax on their income