



State government responsibilities

Elections provide citizens with the opportunity to vote for a government. Once elected, governments then organise many aspects of our society. For example, the Victorian Government is responsible for spending about \$31 billion each year. About 85% of this is spent in seven main service areas:

Department	2005/06 Budget (\$ billion)
Human Services (including health and welfare)	11.5
Education (including government primary and secondary schools)	7.6
Infrastructure (including roads and public transport)	3.8
Justice (including prisons, police and the courts)	2.7
Sustainability and Environment	0.9
Premier and Cabinet (including Arts Victoria)	0.5
Innovation, Industry and Regional Development	0.3

State Government is also responsible for making and enforcing many of the laws that affect our daily life, including laws about:

- transport, such as driving age;
- education, such as school leaving age;
- shop and car theft, and other criminal acts; and
- drug and alcohol use.

1. Provide some examples of State government expenditure in your community.

Which of the seven main State Government expenditure areas apply to your examples?

2. How do you think the following State laws might impact on your daily life?

- The Education Act 1958,
- The Equal Opportunity Act 1995,
- The Road Safety Act 1986,
- The Consumer Affairs Act 1972,
- The Summer Time Act 1972.

Consider:

What rights and responsibilities might they involve for you or your family?

Do they affect you regularly/seriously?

Provide an estimate of their importance on your life.

You will find a full text of Victorian legislation at www.parliament.vic.gov.au.

Maintain a journal of services used

Keep a journal for a week – with a short description of the services you use and how important these services are to your daily living.

An example of a possible layout for the journal is set out below:

My journal of government services used in the week _____ **by** _____

	Service	Level of government responsible	How important it is to my life
Monday	Used the library for research for school assignment	Local government	I like to use the library because I can study there without interruption from my little brothers
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			