

# What's the law?

Australian law for new arrivals

## Answer sheet 1: Australia's legal system

July 2011

Requirements: a copy of the DVD; Realia: pictures of Prime Minister, politician, police officer, judge, lawyer.

### Pre-teaching

Vocabulary: court, decision, election, free, interpreter, judge, law, lawyer, police, politician, Prime Minister, vote.

Warmer activity to introduce topic: Class survey: *What do you know about the law in Australia? Who is the Prime Minister of Australia? Who is your local member of parliament?*

### Key Messages

1. In Australia the law applies equally to everyone.
2. Politicians are elected to parliament. Parliament makes laws on behalf of the people.
3. Voting in elections is compulsory for all citizens over 18.
4. Elections are free and fair.
5. The police must follow the law.
6. Judges are independent and must follow the law.
7. Free information about the law is available to everyone. Legal aid commissions in every state and territory give free legal help for people who cannot afford a lawyer. Community legal centres may also be able to provide free legal help.

### Answers

#### Activity A

- |                |           |   |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| 1. politicians | 2. 18     | 3. (the politician) who works the hardest |
| 4. lawyer      | 5. lawyer |   |

#### Activity B

- |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. d | 2. c | 3. a | 4. b |
|------|------|------|------|

#### Activity C

- |        |        |       |       |        |        |
|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. yes | 2. yes | 3. no | 4. no | 5. yes | 6. yes |
|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|

#### Activity D

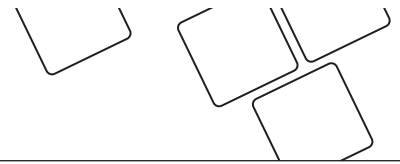
- |                |           |            |           |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. politicians | 2. no one | 3. lawyers | 4. judges |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|

#### Activity E

Discussion

#### Activity F

Check last slide in the DVD for the best place to get free legal help.



## Script for Australia's legal system story

Abdi I want to be the Prime Minister! Then I can drive fast. Do whatever I like!

Gahmal No, even the Prime Minister has to follow the law. They can get a fine too.

Abdi OK, I'll be a police officer then. Then I can make people do what I want.

Gahmal No, police can only ask you to do what the law says. They have to follow the law too.

Abdi So who makes the laws?

Gahmal Politicians make the law.

Abdi OK, I'll be a politician. I'll pay people and they will vote for me!

Gahmal You can't buy votes in Australia! I'm 18 and next election I'm going to vote for who I think will work the hardest. No one can tell me how to vote.

Abdi Well, how about judges? Can we pay them to do what we want? I have to go to court soon.

Gahmal You will be in trouble if you try to give money to a judge. Even judges have to be honest and follow the law.

Abdi Ohhh, I'm so worried. What will happen in court?

Gahmal First the police talk, then you have a chance to tell your story. Then the judge makes a decision.

Abdi But I don't know what to say.

Gahmal You can get a lawyer to help you.

Abdi But I don't want everyone to know my problem.

Gahmal Lawyers have to keep everything private, unless you tell the lawyer that they can tell someone else.

Abdi But I don't have any money.

Gahmal You can get free legal help, and a free interpreter.

Abdi Really? Cool, I think I want to be a lawyer.