

# Government decisions game



This sequence is intended as a framework to be modified and adapted by teachers to suit the needs of a class group.

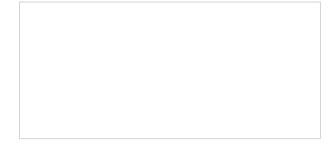
### Resources needed

- What is the government Budget? Video
- Government decisions game Decision cards (one set for every 6 students)
- Government decisions game Recording sheet (one for each group)
- Government decisions game Instructions
- Writing paragraphs in Economics Model and/or
- Writing paragraphs in Economics Visualiser

# Suggested activity sequence

1 Play: This video explains how the government prepares a Budget each year to show how the tax collected will be spent.

## What is the government Budget?



Go to **taxsuperandyou.gov.au** and search for 'what is the government budget video'.

Discuss with students key terminology and as a class define each term. If possible, write these on the board for students to copy.

# **Key terms**

- Australian Government Budget
- Tax revenue
- Tax spending
- What the government spends its money on.
- 3 Organise students into groups of 6.
- 4 Give each group a set of Cards.
- 5 Each group will also need one Recording sheet.
- 6 Use the *Game instructions* to explain to students how to play the game.
- When students have finished playing the game, decide on the winning team.
- 8 Debrief with students. Possible discussion questions include:
  - Was it difficult to make decisions on how to spend taxpayers' money?
  - Which budget categories did you spend more money on? Why did you choose these categories?

Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

- When governments make spending decisions, there are trade-offs. What were your team's trade-offs? What did you spend less money on? Why?
- Which teams ran out of money to spend?
- What does this tell you about the decisions governments have to make?
- Why can't citizens have everything they want?

9 Students write a paragraph explaining how tax revenue is spent and the trade-offs associated with government decisions.

If necessary, refer students refer to the Writing paragraphs in Economics model, or teach them explicitly using Writing paragraphs in Economics visualiser.