



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'.

- 2 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.
- 7 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?



- 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*.