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.
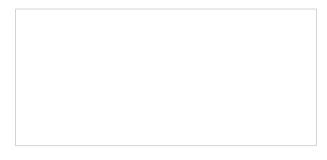
Resources needed

- 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 Commerce – Model and/or
- Writing paragraphs in Commerce – 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?

CO17.1

taxsuperandyou.gov.au

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 Commerce model*, or teach them explicitly using *Writing paragraphs in Commerce visualiser.*

Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office