

Rights and Responsibilities:

**What are they and how
are they connected?**

Introduction:

In Australia, we enjoy many rights and freedoms that are limited in other countries.

The democratic system of government we have helps to protect these and enables people to make many choices about the way that they live their lives.

But what exactly is the difference between a right and a responsibility and how are they related to each other?

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Right or responsibility?

A **right** is an entitlement to have something, or to be free from something. Rights are protected by law or through society's expectations.

A **responsibility** is a duty or obligation to act in a certain way. They can be positive - a duty TO do something; or they can be negative - a duty NOT to do something.

What is the relationship between **rights** and **responsibilities**?



When we exercise (use) our rights, we must also consider how our actions might impact on other people being able to exercise their rights. We have a responsibility to ensure that other people can also freely exercise their rights.

There is always a responsibility that matches each right, called a corresponding responsibility.

What are some examples?

An example of a **right** we enjoy in Australia is the right to choose your religion, and an example of a freedom is the freedom to have your own opinions.



An example of a positive **responsibility** is to treat others with respect, even if their opinion differs from your own.



An example of a negative **responsibility** is to not discriminate against another person for any reason.



Are rights protected in Australia?



In Australia, many of our rights and freedoms are protected. Some are included in our Constitution and some in our laws.

This means we are able to **access** most of our rights relatively easily. There are also solutions available through our legal system if someone breaches our rights.

Quiz:



Discussion question: What might be a penalty for breaching the right of another person?



True or False: **responsibilities** can be only be positive.



What do you consider to be an important **right** and why?



An example of a **right** that you know is
And the **corresponding responsibility** to go with having that right is



True or false: some of our rights are protected by the Constitution in Australia.



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