



# Checklist of Effective Laws

In Australia, Parliaments at Federal (Commonwealth) and State level, Legislative Assemblies at Territory level, and Local Governments at community level, have the responsibility to create laws to regulate behaviour to keep our community safe and functioning smoothly. As opposed to a dictatorship or authoritarian regime that is ruled by one person or group of people (rule **by** law), Australia is a representative democracy under the rule **of** law. This means that laws are made for the people by their democratically elected representatives, and everyone, including those in power, must follow the law and punishment can only be imposed in line with the law.

**The rule of law and human rights define the parameters of what makes a good law.** Under the rule of law, effective laws are laws that can regulate the targeted behaviour in a way that is equal, fair and just, and protects the people from arbitrary rule.

Characteristics of a Good Law	Y/N	Reasons
Protects the Rule of Law and Human Rights		
Clear		
Known and Accessible		
Accepted		
Applied Consistently and Fairly		
Enforceable		
Stable		
Amendable (Changeable)		
Prospective, not Retrospective		