

## Student Class Sheet

### Why Should Young People Vote?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

After looking at the interactive animation providing an introduction to 'Why you should vote' either in groups or as a class discuss the following issues. Some may need to be researched.

**1. "I think everybody needs to vote. If you don't vote, you don't have the right to complain about the government."\***

Questions to explore are:

- Why do people complain about the government?
- What are some aspects of the current government (Federal and State) that you think need improvement and why?

**2. "It's really important we all have our say because we're voting for who will run our state."\***

Questions to explore are:

- What parts of our society does the State government influence?
- What aspects directly affect you?

**3. "When I got my part-time job and started paying tax, I wanted to have some say in how that money gets spent. Voting's the best way to have that say."\***

Questions to explore:

- If you start working part or full-time or even on a casual basis before you turn 18, you start to pay tax but don't have the right to vote. Therefore should the voting age be lowered?
- In which areas would you want to see your taxes spent? Research the various policies that affect you directly.

**4. “We’re the future, so we should be having our say about the future we want and not just leaving it up to other people.”\***

Questions to explore:

- What are some other policies that affect people other than you for example, your parents or siblings? How are these policies important even though they may not directly affect you?
- Considering you will one day be your parents’ age, how do you want to see these policies improve or stay the same?

**5. “I enrolled when I was 17 so I didn’t miss my chance to vote. That meant that I could vote as soon as I turned 18. Young people need to be heard too!”\***

Questions to explore (you may link this to statement three):

- What sort of responsibilities do you have at the age of 17?
- Do you think there should be a program in schools to make all 17 year olds enrol to vote? Why or why not?

**6. “When you vote, you’re making your opinion heard about the government. Even if it’s only a small impact, at least I’m doing my bit.”\***

Questions to explore:

- How can you directly make an impact in your own world?
- Each bit contributes to the big picture. What small bit can you do today to contribute to that big picture? How can you increase awareness?