

Story of Our Rights and Freedoms – Constitutional Referendum in Action – Year 7 Civics

Thought Starter: Direct democracy is a form of democracy in which people make decisions about how the country is run.

Article 21 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that:

“Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.”

A constitutional referendum ensures that all Australian voters have a say on changes to the Australian Constitution.

Is there a link between Article 21 of the UDHR and Australia’s Constitutional referendum process? If so, what is it? If not, do you think there should be?



Reflection

On a scale of 1-10 (1 = not effective at all, 10 = the most effective), how effective is the process to change the Australian Constitution in ensuring that our rights and freedoms are maintained?

Why did you give that rating?

Extension/Homework: Dive deeper into the concept of a constitutional referendum by researching one successful and one unsuccessful referendum in Australia, then share your understanding at the beginning of the next class.