



Community Connections

Welcome to your local council
Your local community

Welcome!

Local Council

Welcome to your local council area!

There are 68 local councils in South Australia. These councils provide important services and facilities to local residents.

The range of services provided by your local council is in response to the needs and priorities of the community. The services can vary from one council area to another depending upon the council's location and size.

Communities can work with their council to influence what happens in their area and to develop programs.

This guide will explain how your local council can help you. It was developed to describe:

- how councils work
- some of councils' rules
- what councils can do for you.

Community Connections

This guide is about council services.

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Libraries

Every council has one or more public library. Libraries offer many services.

Joining a library is free. To use the library you must register with identification.

After that you can borrow:

- books, children's books, CD-ROMs, videos, DVDs, CDs, magazines and newspapers
- materials in other languages
- language kits to learn English
- toys and sports equipment.

You can use:

- computers
- free Internet
- study areas
- laminating, photocopying, printing, scanning and faxing services.

You can ask about:

- Community information – notice boards for pamphlets and information about local services and events
- Local history – a collection of material related to the history of your area.

You can join:

- English classes
- children's story time and activities
- school holiday programs
- book discussion groups
- Internet training
- computing classes and many other classes.

Library staff are happy to help you.

More information on your local library can be found at www.libraries.sa.gov.au.



Community Centres

Councils have community centres. They are places where people meet for activities or functions. Community groups and individuals can hire these centres.

At many community centres you can find:

- computer classes
- English conversation and adult literacy classes
- playgroups and parents groups
- arts and crafts classes
- support groups
- exercise classes
- photocopying, Internet access
- Justice of the Peace (JP) services

And many more activities.

Programs are for all age groups and help is available.



English Classes

If you want to learn to speak and write English contact:

- your local council
- your local community centre
- your local library
- TAFE SA English Language Services (ELS).



Parks and Recreation

Playgrounds

Playgrounds have play equipment, seats, shade and barbeques for you and your family to enjoy.



Parks and Reserves

Parks and reserves are public places where you can relax, walk or play. Please read the signs.



Tennis Courts

Some councils have tennis courts that may be free to use when available.



Skate Parks

Some councils have skate parks. Skate parks can be used for skateboarding, in line skating or BMX bike riding.



Swimming Pools

Some councils have swimming pools. There is usually a charge to use a pool. Swimming lessons are available.



Walking and Riding Trails

Some councils have special trails for bike riding, horse riding or walking.



Beaches

When you go to the beach read the signs for safety. Be aware that hot sun can burn and water can be dangerous.



Community Information

Community Information

Councils have information about schools, sporting clubs, churches, mosques, activities and facilities.



Special Events

Councils organise special events to celebrate holidays, festivals and other important dates.



Citizenship Ceremonies

To become an Australian citizen you can get an application form from your council. Councils organise citizenship ceremonies.



Volunteering

Volunteers are people who give their time for free. Volunteering is a way to learn new skills, have fun and meet new people. The new skills you learn could help you get a job.

You can volunteer:

- at libraries
- at community centres
- by working with youth, older people and people with disabilities.



Justices of the Peace (JPs)

JPs are respected citizens who are trusted by their community to take on special responsibilities within the legal system. They can witness and sign your documents. All service is free.



Community Bus

Some councils have buses which take you to local shopping and community centres. Buses and drivers may be available for hire.



Hall Hire

Halls are available for hire in your local area. Halls can be used for family gatherings or special events like birthdays and wedding celebrations.



Youth Programs

Some councils support young people (aged 12 - 25 years) and their families with services that may include:

- counselling
- mental health programs
- living skills
- youth health clinics
- recreation and holiday programs
- youth advisory councils
- homework help.



Help for elderly and people with disabilities

If you are old or have a disability you may be able to get help with:

- gardening
- cleaning
- shopping
- lawn maintenance
- social programs.



Local History

You can find out more about your local area by asking your council or by visiting some of the following places:

- museums
- galleries
- parks
- important buildings
- Aboriginal sites and meeting places
- ports
- beaches.



How Do I Live?

Health and Safety



Rubbish

Your local council provides bins and empties them every week. You must put the correct rubbish in each bin. Do not leave anything outside the bins.

Each bin is used for a different type of rubbish:

- green waste (garden clippings, grass, leaves)
- recycling (plastic, glass, tin cans, cardboard and paper)
- general rubbish.

If you have too much rubbish you may ask your council for another bin.



Public Health

Councils offer immunisations for adults and children to protect them against diseases that may cause serious illness or even death. Many of the immunisation services are free. Clinics are available at different times in your local areas.



Australian Road Rules

You need to understand and obey the Australian road rules which you will find in The Driver's Handbook. This book has a cost and can be bought at major newsagents or at your nearest Transport SA Customer Service Centre.



Pests

European wasps, rats and mosquitoes are a health risk to the community as they can cause diseases and food poisoning. Contact your local council for advice and information about these pests.

- Rat control is important.
- European wasps are dangerous.
- Mosquito control is important.



Animals

You have to take good care of animals and there are rules to protect them. Your council can advise you on keeping cats, chickens, goats and other animals.



Dogs

Some dog rules are:

- pay a registration fee every year
- keep your dog on a lead when you take it for a walk
- pick up your dog's poo
- follow the signs in parks about dog rules
- there is a limit of dogs for each house.



Fire Restrictions

There are laws about lighting fires at home and in parks.

Contact:

- your local council
- South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service on telephone 8204 3600
- South Australian Country Fire Service on telephone 1300 362 361 to find out the rules about fires at home or in parks.



Your House

If you are renting your house ask your landlord (the property owner) before making any changes to the house. If you own your own house there are rules about changing your house and its surroundings.

Contact your council if you want to:

- build an extra room
- knock down any part of a house
- build a carport, garage, shed
- put up or pull down a fence
- install a swimming pool
- prune or remove a large tree
- park a truck near your home
- divide land or create a new boundary
- build a second house.



Where Do I Live?

Three levels of
Government



Local Council (Local Government)

The Mayor and councillors represent your local community and are supported by council staff. They are here to help you be part of the community. They want you to feel safe and happy.

The community elects their council members every four years. Contact your council for information about how to vote.

Local councils within South Australia provide a range of services and information about:

- environmental health services
- libraries/ community information
- community centres
- parks and recreational facilities
- footpaths, roads and drains
- rules for keeping animals
- rubbish collection
- building rules, planning and development
- citizenship ceremonies.

South Australian State Government

State Government is responsible for managing:

- hospitals
- schools
- roads
- railways
- fire
- ambulance
- police
- car registrations and drivers' licenses.

Your representatives are elected every four years, and are known as State Members of Parliament. The Premier is the head of the State Government and represents the interests of the whole of the state.



Australian Federal Government

Federal Government is responsible for:

- immigration
- post and telecommunications
- airport /air safety
- defence
- foreign affairs
- tertiary education (University, TAFE)
- taxation
- Centrelink
- Medicare
- customs.

Your representatives are elected every three years, and are known as Federal Members of Parliament. The Prime Minister is the head of the Federal Government, and represents the interests of the whole of Australia.



Flags

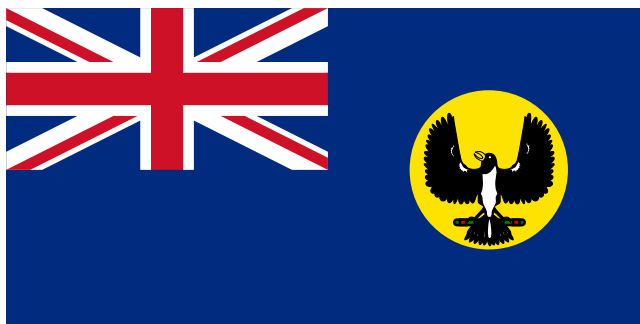
This is the Australian Flag

The Australian flag came into being after the federation of Australia on 1 January, 1901.



This is the South Australian State Flag

The South Australian State flag was adopted on 13 January 1904.



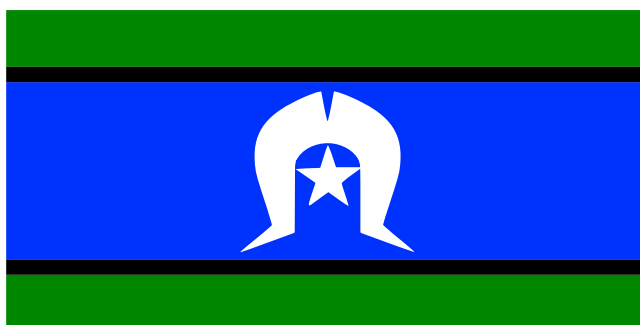
This is the Aboriginal Flag

The Australian Aboriginal flag was first raised on 12 July 1971 at Victoria Square in Adelaide.



This is the Torres Strait Island Flag

The Torres Strait Islander flag was adopted in May 1992 during the Torres Strait Islands Cultural Festival.



Multicultural Agencies

Australian Refugee Association

304 Henley Beach Road
Underdale SA 5032
Telephone: 8354 2951

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Level 3, 55 Currie St
Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone: 131 881 (General Enquiries)

English Language Services (TAFE SA)

5th Floor, Renaissance Centre
127 Rundle Mall
Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone: 8226 6555

Migrant Resource Centre

59 King William Rd
Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone: 8217 9500



This guide was produced by the following:



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Contact the Local Government Association by calling 8224 2000
to find out which Council area you live in.

www.lga.sa.gov.au