U1 Legal Week 2 Parliament Vocabulary:

Key word/phrase	Definition
Constitution	A legal document setting out specific powers for the government.
Democracy	A system of government where the supreme power is given to the people and applied directly by them or by their elected representatives under a free and fair electoral system.
Law	The system of rules which a country uses to control acceptable and non-acceptable behaviours.
Separation of powers	The division between the executive, legislature (parliament) and judiciary. These separations act as checks and balances on each other to prevent excessive power in one group.
Government	The group of people who control and make decisions for a country, state, etc. The government is the political party that has the highest number of seats in the lower house of parliament. It is ruling party in a state or a nation.
Parliament	The group of people who are responsible for making the laws in some kinds of government. It is the supreme law-making body of Australia. It consists of the King's representative (the Governor-General), the Senate and the House of Representatives at the Commonwealth level. In Victoria (at the state level), it consists of the King's representative (the Governor), the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly.
Federation	A country formed by separate states that have given certain powers to a central government while keeping control over local matters.
Senate	One of the two houses of the Commonwealth Parliament; it is also known as the upper house or the House of Review. It is made up of 76 senators: each elected to represent one of Australia's six states or two territories. Its role is to debate and pass bills, scrutinise government and represent the people of Australia.
House of Representatives	One of the two houses of the Commonwealth Parliament; it is also known as the lower house or the people's house. There are 150 members elected to this house (also referred to as MPs). Each member represents one of Australia's 150 federal electorates. The government is formed in this house, by the party or coalition of parties with the support of the majority of members in the House. Its role is to debate and pass bills, scrutinise government and represent the people of Australia.
Governor General	The Queen's representative in Australia. They are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister, usually for a term of five years. The Australian Constitution sets out some of the duties e.g. starting the process for a federal election.
Governor	The representative of the Queen at the state level. The governor performs the same constitutional and ceremonial functions at the state level as at the federal level.