**LEGAL STUDIES**

**Units 1 & 2**

This study explores the distinction between criminal and civil law, and the need for laws in society. Students investigate the process of making laws and changing laws and the role of parliament and subordinate authorities in law-making. Students examine the rights and responsibilities under criminal and civil law and the associated outcomes.

**Unit 1 Criminal law in action**

This Unit focuses on the key features of criminal law, how it is enforced and adjudicated and possible outcomes and impacts of crime. Students learn the different types of crime and explore rights and responsibilities under criminal law. Students consider the role of parliament and subordinate authorities in law-making. Students investigate the processes and procedures followed by courts.

**Unit 2 Issues in civil law**

This Unit focuses on the rights that are protected by civil law, as well as obligations that laws impose. Students investigate types of civil laws and related cases and issues and develop an appreciation of the role of civil law in society. Students examine methods of dispute resolution and evaluate their effectiveness.

**Units 3 & 4**

This study aims to provide students with an understanding of the institutions that determine our laws and their law-making powers and processes. Students evaluate the effectiveness of lawmaking bodies and examine the need for the law to keep up with changes in society. Students investigate methods of dispute resolution that can be used as an alternative to civil litigation. Both criminal and civil trial processes are examined, including the adversary system. Students evaluate the effective operation of the Victorian legal system, including recommendations for reform.

**Unit 3 Law-making**

This Unit explores an understanding of the institutions that determine our laws and their lawmaking powers and processes. Students evaluate the overall effectiveness of law-making bodies and examine the need for the law to keep up to date with changes in society.

**Unit 4 Resolution and justice**

This Unit explores the means and processes that enable the resolution of legal disputes, including the jurisdiction of the courts, tribunals and alternative avenues of dispute resolution. Students develop an understanding of the processes and procedures followed in courtrooms and develop an understanding of the adversary system of trial and jury system, as well as pre-trial and post-trial procedures that operate in the Victorian legal system. In this Unit students evaluate the effective operation of the Victorian legal system and consider reforms or changes that could further improve its effective operation.