

My thoughts

by Jacob Knevett

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In response to an advertisement in the newspaper:

I don't know a lot about what democracy means really other than that we in Australia are lucky that we come from a free country and that we are treated as individuals and with respect.

We in Tasmania are free to say what we like even if it is a view that is not the same as those that govern us.

I know that when I turn 18 I can vote for who I want to and it is this voting process that decides who will lead our country.

I know that in other countries people may not be so lucky and that the people that rule over them do so without the need for the people to have voted for them.

I know that people in other countries, for example, China, have a communist government that is not that interested in individuals, but rather is concerned with power and control.

I have seen on television especially at this time with the Beijing Olympics that people in China are happy to be having the Olympics in their country, but I can see that those people are also sad because their government does not really respect their views or allow them any freedom of speech.

I think we should have improved standards that allows people to have freedom of speech, to check that the government is acting fairly and to have lots of different ways that people, and children are people to, can express their views.

I would say that as a 12 year old student I am not sure what I can do to have my say and voice any concerns that affect me and my community relating to what I may see as unfair happenings.

I would like to know how young people can be given a chance to have their say so that it can be heard by those people who make decisions.

Are there going to be any forums... "coming to a school near you?"