

Prime Minister

- Head of the Government
- Comes into the Chamber during each session of Question Time, and makes important statements of government policy, and major motions on behalf of the Government.
- Takes the lead on behalf of the house on non-political matters (e.g. thanking volunteers during disaster recovery or recognising significant national events)

Ministers

- Selected by Prime Minister who allocates their portfolio and helps the government develop policies.
- Act as spokespersons for the Government on matters relating to their departments, including introducing and managing the legislation around their portfolios.
- Introduce bills that fall within their portfolio and makes the 2nd reading speech (explains purpose and general principles, and effect of the bill).

Members (Backbenchers)

- Speak about government business raised in the Chamber
- Question ministers during question time and by means of written questions by notice.
- Serve on parliamentary committees
- Consider Government legislation before it is put to the house.
- Expected to follow the party line when voting.

Opposition Leader

- Leader of the Opposition
- Expected to become the new Prime Minister if the Government were to lose office.
- Takes the lead in asking Opposition questions during Question Time.
- Equal time is granted to address the house whenever the Prime Minister addresses the House of Representatives.

Shadow Ministers

- Selected by the Opposition Leader who allocates their portfolio.
- Each Shadow Minister acts as opposition spokesperson in respect to the responsibilities of one (or more) portfolio.

Opposition Members (Backbenchers)

- Speak about government business raised in the Chamber
- Question ministers during question time and by means of written questions by notice.
- Serve on parliamentary committees
- Consider Government policy and legislation and work to develop alternative policies for presentation to the Parliaments
- Expected to follow the party line when voting.

Members (Independent)

- Does not belong to or represent a political party.
- Represent their electorate.
- Able to vote according to their beliefs and the perceived will of their electorate.
- Other parties might call on their support to help policies and legislation pass through Government.

Speaker of the House

- Chairs all parliamentary meetings in the House of Representatives.
- Elected by the members of the House and usually someone of considerable parliamentary experience.
- Oversees the administration of the Department of the House of Representatives.

Clerk

- Assisting the Speaker to run Chamber proceedings, including having a thorough knowledge of the rules of the Chamber.
- Records all documents presented to the Chamber.
- Helps to organise the order of business for the day.
- Certifying the passage of bills (proposed laws) through Parliament.
- Record the actions and decisions of the Chamber
- Assists with opening Parliament and introducing new members to their roles.