

The ADMINISTRATOR

Before learning about the Administrator of the Northern Territory, it is important to understand the role of the Governor-General and State Governors.

The Governor-General of Australia

The Governor-General is the Queen's representative in Australia, and is appointed by the Queen on advice from the Prime Minister. Their functions are defined by the Constitution. A main responsibility is to give Royal assent to bills (by signing them) that have been passed by parliament, thereby making them law. Governors-General also open the new parliament after an election, and have a number of other ceremonial duties.



Flag of the Governor-General of Australia

The State Governors

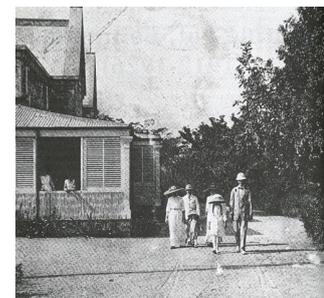
The Governors of Australian states perform the same constitutional and ceremonial duties as the Governor-General, but at a state level. They directly represent the Queen and are not responsible to the Governor-General. State Governors have actually been around longer than the Governor-General as they were first established with the original colonies that later became states under Federation in 1901 (which established the Governor-General's office).



Government House: Residence of the Administrator

The Administrator is appointed by the Governor-General (on advice from the Chief Minister) to administer the Northern Territory in accordance with the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978*. The Administrator is not a direct representative of the Queen like State Governors, but is responsible to the Governor-General. Northern Territory has had an Administrator since 1911 when the Commonwealth Government took over control of the NT from South Australia.

The Administrator performs similar constitutional and ceremonial roles to the Governor-General and State Governors, including giving assent to bills. As the Administrator is not a direct representative of the Queen however, they cannot give Royal assent. Ceremonial duties of the Administrator include hosting visiting Royalty and official dignitaries of Australia and other nations, attending functions and acting as patron of public institutions. The current Administrator of the Northern Territory is Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AM.



Dr John Gilruth, NT's first Administrator, and his family at Government House in 1912.