

Parliament in the Northern Territory



The official name for Parliament in the Northern Territory is the Legislative Assembly. This comes from two Latin words: *Legis* meaning 'law' and *Latio* meaning 'proposing'. Therefore the term Legislative Assembly refers to an assembly of people who propose laws.



Within the Northern Territory Parliament, there are several roles. All Australian Parliaments have these roles, although the State Parliaments and the Federal Parliament use different names for some positions.

ACTIVITY ⇒ Who Am I? Write the name of the role next to its description



Speaker **Chief Minister** **Whip** **Serjeant-At-Arms** **Deputy Clerk**
Minister **Leader of Government Business** **Leader of the Opposition** **Clerk**
Cabinet **Shadow Minister** **Administrator**

	This group is comprised of all the Ministers and the Chief Minister.
	I am the most senior permanent official in the Legislative Assembly. I am an expert in parliamentary procedures and processes (e.g. Standing Orders) and I advise the Speaker on these.
	I am a member of the government party who has responsibility for a particular area or areas like health, education, Indigenous affairs and the environment. These responsibilities are called portfolios.
	I am the member of the lower house who is elected by my fellow members to be the presiding officer of Parliament. I am responsible for maintaining order in the Chamber and ensuring the proceedings are conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders (rules) of the Legislative Assembly.
	I carry the Mace and escort the Speaker to and from the chamber at the beginning and end of parliamentary sittings. I also assist the Speaker by removing disorderly Members from the Chamber.
	I am the leader of the political party with the greatest number of Members in the Legislative Assembly. My party forms Government, so I am the Head of Government.
	I am usually a senior Member of the Government who has an extensive knowledge of parliamentary procedures and I am usually a Minister. I am responsible for arranging all the items of business the Government wishes to deal with during parliamentary sittings. I do this with the Clerk.
	There is usually one of us from each political party, and I am responsible for ensuring that all Members of my political party are in the Chamber when they are required to speak or to vote. I also arrange meetings between our parties with my equivalent from the other party.
	I give assent to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly thereby making them law. I live in Government House and am appointed by the Governor-General of Australia on advice from the Chief Minister.
	I am the leader of the political party with the second highest number of members in the Legislative Assembly. Our party forms the Opposition and we scrutinise the Government.
	I am the second most senior permanent official in the Legislative Assembly. I assist the Clerk and step in their place when they are not available. I am also responsible for timing Members' speeches.
	I am a Member of the Opposition who acts on particular areas of government portfolios. I am responsible for asking questions and replying to statements made by Government Ministers and for putting forward the policies of the Opposition for that portfolio.

ANSWERS— Who Am I? Write the name of the role next to its description

In order from top to bottom of completed table:

Cabinet

Clerk

Minister

Speaker

Serjeant-At-Arms

Chief Minister

Leader of Government Business

Whip

Administrator

Leader of the Opposition

Deputy Clerk

Shadow Minister

