

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

In the Northern Territory, there are 25 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). They are elected by the people of the Northern Territory to represent them and make decisions on their behalf. Members of the Assembly are elected for four year terms.

Members of the Assembly spend much of their time listening to, and acting for, their constituents or the individuals and community groups in their electorate. This also involves attending meetings and functions within their electorate. They represent their constituents during the Assembly's meetings and often sit on the Assembly's committees. Members may have ministerial responsibilities if they are in government, or shadow ministerial responsibilities if they are in opposition. If members belong to a political party then they will also have party responsibilities such as involvement in planning strategies and policies for their party.

In the Chamber...

...Members are not referred to by their names, but by the name of their electorate. For example, 'the Member for Port Darwin'.

Who can be an Assembly Member?

Any member of the community can be a candidate for election as a Member of the Assembly, as long as they are:

- an Australian citizen
- at least 18 years old
- registered on the electoral roll
- a resident of the Northern Territory for at least 3 months and Australia for at least 6 months

Usually people who want to become a member of the Assembly join a political party in line with their political views. They then try to get selected by that party to be a candidate for their electorate at the next election.

People can also choose to stand as an independent candidate at elections.

The people of each electorate will vote for the candidate they most want to represent them in the Assembly.



The First Assembly of the Northern Territory (1974-1977) with only 19 members. It was increased to 25 members in 1982.



The Thirteenth Assembly of the Northern Territory with the Administrator of the Northern Territory, His Honour, the Honourable John Hardy, AO (November 2016)