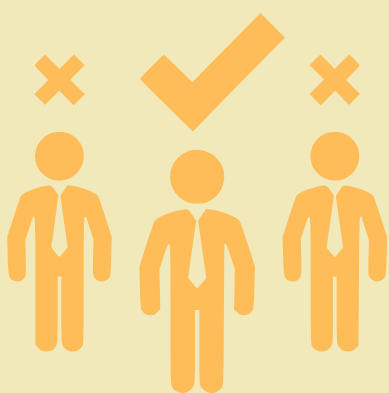


The Cabinet

What

The Cabinet is a group of senior ministers within the Australian government. They make decisions regarding major policy and legislative proposals that affect Australia. It is basically an administrative function for the senior government members to make decisions.

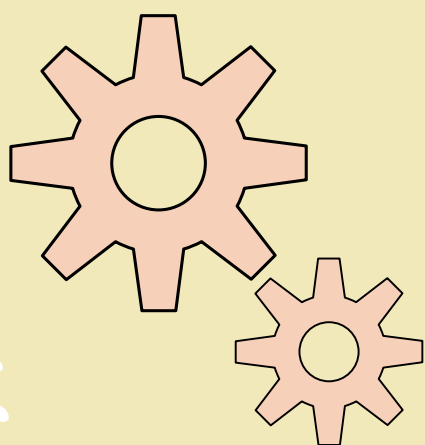
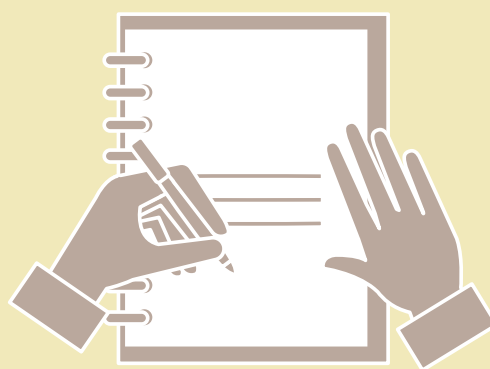


Who

The Cabinet ranges in size with a maximum of 30 ministers allowed. Each minister is an elected member of either the Senate or House of Representatives and are selected by the Prime Minister to oversee a portfolio, such as health or education.

Administration

There is no official record of discussions from Cabinet meetings, however notes that reflect decisions made are taken. These are available 30 years after the fact. It is a requirement that Cabinet members support Cabinet decisions publicly, even if they disagree, otherwise they risk dismissal or will be encouraged to resign.



Inner and Outer Ministry

MPs that are selected by the Prime Minister to be ministers are given a particular portfolio to oversee. The Inner Ministry are Cabinet members and are involved in all Cabinet discussions. The Outer Ministry reports to senior ministers and oversee more specific portfolios such as early childhood education. The Outer Ministry are invited to join discussions relating to particular bills or issues that are relevant to their portfolio.

Interesting Facts

The Cabinet is based on past traditions and practice; it is not a part of the constitution. Each government is able to decide how they want the cabinet to operate. The cabinet meets weekly, and phones and computers are not allowed into meetings to ensure discussions are kept secret.

