

This activity is designed to enable students to discover for themselves who plays a role in the functioning of our Legislative Assembly and what role they play.

## WHAT

- a) Arrange the classroom to simulate the Legislative Assembly Chamber.
- b) Place Title Cards on each chair in the "Chamber", according to the parliamentary seating plan. (For a permanent resource these can be stuck onto cards inserted into plastic name tags with clips).
- c) Students equipped with their Information Sheets occupy a seat and pin on their particular card.
- d) Referring to their Information Sheets, each student shares with their classmates information on who they are and what role they play in the Legislative Assembly.

## WHERE

Complete the worksheet "Where do Members sit?". On the floor plan of the Legislative Assembly Chamber, students are to mark in the seating of the 15 roles identified from "People in Parliament".

It is essential that students be made aware of the following points:

- (i) The Government sits to the right of the Speaker; the Opposition sits to the Speaker's left.
- (ii) The Speaker and Chairperson of Committees are usually Government Members.
- (iii) The Government has a greater number of Members than the Opposition or an equal number and the support of at least one Independent Member.
- (iv) Ministers and Shadow Ministers occupy the frontbenches of the Chamber.
- (v) Independents occupy seats to the left of the Speaker.

When making up the numbers to accommodate your particular class size, you should consider the following points:

1. The Government generally has the majority of Members in the Legislative Assembly. Remember that Government Members include the Speaker and the Chairperson of Committees.
2. Endeavour to match a Minister with a Shadow Minister for the same portfolio when making your selection.
3. If your group exceeds the 31 listed roles, you may supplement with extra Government Backbenchers and Opposition Backbenchers.
4. The 15 roles which are underlined should always be included in activities which involve the functioning of the Legislative Assembly.
5. The current size of the Ministry in the Queensland Government is 18. A selection of portfolios was made according to the suitability for primary students' comprehension.