

People of Parliament: Leader of the Opposition

Cloze Passage

Read through the following passage and select the word or phrase from the table that best fits in each space. You can use each word or phrase only once.

government	alternative	party	debated	job
majority	Opposition Leader	election	important	salary
constitution	Shadow Cabinet	convention	citizens	strong

After an election⁽¹⁾, the major party that doesn't win a majority⁽²⁾ usually forms the official Opposition, and the head of that party⁽³⁾ becomes the Leader of the Opposition.

In a democracy, it is important that the government⁽⁴⁾ should be scrutinised and that its policies should be debated⁽⁵⁾, to make sure they will be beneficial to citizens⁽⁶⁾. An effective parliament requires a strong⁽⁷⁾ Opposition.

The job⁽⁸⁾ of the opposition is to hold the government to account and to provide an alternative government. The Leader of the Opposition responds to the government's policies and offers alternative⁽⁹⁾ policies to the electorate. The Opposition Leader is the Chair of the Shadow⁽¹⁰⁾ Cabinet and leads the opposition party in parliamentary debate.

Unlike the Premier, the role of Opposition⁽¹¹⁾ Leader is not recognised in the constitution⁽¹²⁾, but is a position that has arisen through convention⁽¹³⁾. However the Leader of the Opposition is provided with additional salary⁽¹⁴⁾, staff and facilities in recognition of the important⁽¹⁵⁾ job the opposition performs.