

People of Parliament: Premier

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.

Assembly	majority	Constitution	election	party	Governor	branch	votes
decisions	Cabinet	sworn	electorate	convention	Legislative	Executive	resigns
State	political	people	seats	leader	portfolio	tradition	Member

The Premier is the leader of the party that holds a majority number of seats in the Queensland Parliament. Consequently, the Premier is the political leader of Queensland. The role of Premier used to be a 'convention'. This means it was not an official role but rather, the result of tradition. However, since 2001, the role of Premier is now an official position, recorded in Queensland's Constitution.

When people vote in an election, they don't directly choose a candidate to be Premier. Instead, they vote for the candidate they want to represent their electorate in parliament. The person with the most votes in each electorate gets their own seat in the Legislative Assembly, becoming the Member of Parliament representing that electorate.

After an election, the party with the support of the majority of seats in the Legislative Assembly, is asked to form a government. The leader of the majority party is sworn in as Premier by the Governor. The Premier gets their authority from their party, as its leader. If the party decides to elect a new leader, the convention is that the incumbent Premier resign. The new party leader is then sworn in as Premier. Once the Premier takes office, they select ministers from the Legislative Assembly to form a Cabinet. Each Cabinet Minister is allocated a portfolio or area of responsibility. These ministers are then also sworn in by the Governor.

The Cabinet, made up of Premier and ministers, comprises the Executive branch of government, which is responsible for putting laws and policies into effect. As the Chief Executive, the Premier has many roles and responsibilities, including:

- performing the role of leader of the State,
- communicating the decisions of Cabinet to the Governor
- advising the Governor to perform certain acts, like issuing the writs for an election, and
- representing the people of their electorate, like any other Member of Parliament.