

Separation of Powers

The three branches of government in Australia – the Legislature, the Executive, and the Judiciary. Each branch has its roles and responsibilities. All three are essential as they keep each other in line.

The Legislature

Also known as the Parliament, the purpose of the Legislature is to make and amend the laws of the country. The Legislature is run by the Queen (represented by the Governor-General), the House of Representatives and the Senate. Australian Parliament is in Canberra, ACT. If the Government recommends a new law that the Legislature finds unacceptable, they can refuse to pass it. The Legislature can also pass laws that override the Court's decisions and remove judges for misconduct.



The Executive

Also known as the Government, the purpose of the Executive is to manage the laws of the country.

The Executive is run by the Queen (represented by the Governor-General), ministers and Prime Minister. They oversee Government Departments and Agencies, including Education, Defence and Health.

The Government implements laws passed by the Legislature and appoints the judges of the High Court. The Executive has their actions checked by the Shadow Cabinet. They exist to shadow important Government ministers and question their decisions.

The Judiciary

Also known as the Courts, the purpose of the Executive is to judge the laws of the country. The Judiciary is run by the High Court of Australia and other federal courts. These courts are made of judges who are sworn in by the Governor-General at the recommendation of the Prime Minister. If an unconstitutional law is made by the Parliament, the Courts can make it invalid. The Judiciary can also declare actions of the Executive to be unlawful.