

## Information sheet – Representative government and responsible government

### Representative government

Representative government means a government of representatives elected by the people. In Australia, members of parliament are elected to the Senate or the House of Representatives to represent the Australian people and make laws on their behalf. The party or coalition of parties with the support of the majority of members elected to the House becomes the government.

### Responsible government

Responsible government means a party, or coalition of parties, must maintain the support of the majority of members of the House of Representatives in order to remain in government. This provides a check on the Executive, so they must be accountable, or responsible, to the Parliament and do not abuse their power.

#### For more information:

- Government fact sheet: [tinyurl.com/FS-Government](https://www.tinyurl.com/FS-Government)