



AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT



Standard: SS6CG2 – Explain forms of citizen participation in government.

Element: a. Explain citizen participation in democratic governments [i.e. the role of citizens in choosing the leaders of Australia (parliamentary democracy)].

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

Australia is an example of a **parliamentary democracy**.

Australians elect members of **parliament (MPs)** to represent them both at the **provincial/territorial** and national levels.



Australian Citizens

vote
for



**Members of
Parliament**

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

Parliamentary democracy is different than a **direct** democracy in that the citizens do not vote **directly** for the leader at a national level rather they vote for a political figure who will vote for their **provincial/territory**.

Citizens of Australia vote for **MP's** running for office in their **territory**.

Provincial/territory is a political division similar to **states**.



**Australia
Territories**

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

Australian citizens **do not** vote directly for **Prime Minister**.

Australia's citizens entrust the selection of the country's **prime minister** to the national parliament's leading **political party**.

Prime Minister is the title often given to the **head** of **government** in a parliamentary democracy.

Unlike presidential democracies, no one actually **campaigns** to be Prime Minister rather they are selected **within** themselves (**MP's**).

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

Australians aged **18** and older are **required** to vote, and there are **numerous** political parties to choose from.

Citizens who **fail** to vote at state elections are **fined** \$**20** for the first offense and \$**50** for the second offense.



18+



Must



VOTE

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY



**Executive
(Prime Minister)**



**Legislature
(Parliament)**

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

In Australia, the prime minister is considered the **head** of **government** in the **executive** branch.

The **Prime Minister** is the true executive leader of the nation also known as **Chief Executive**.

Australia recognizes the **monarch** of the **United Kingdom** as its symbolic/ceremonial **head** of **state**.

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

The **monarch** has no real power.

Most of the Monarch's job is **humanitarian** work.

Duties of the monarch are mainly **ceremonial**.



Australia's Prime Minister



Australia's Monarch

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

The monarch has no real **power**.

Duties of the **monarch** are mainly **ceremonial**.

This political arrangement traces back to Australia's former status as a **British** colony.

King George III was the **monarch** during Australia's **colonization** by James Cook in 1770 and was Australia's first **Monarch**.

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen of **England** today and is the **monarch** of Australia.

Then



King George III

Now



Queen Elizabeth II