

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

The President is in charge of the sittings of the Senate, like a chairperson running a meeting. The President makes sure that debates run smoothly, and the rules of the Senate, as set out in Standing Orders, are followed. There is also an elected Deputy President.

The President is the spokesperson for the Senate in all its dealings with the Governor-General, the government, the House of Representatives and other parliaments and authorities.

The President is one of 76 Senators. All the Senators elect the new President using a secret vote on the first sitting day after 1 July following a Senate election.

The President has a vote just like any other senator and votes whenever other senators vote. This is to ensure that all states have equal representation whenever votes are taken.

The President is also in charge of the entire Department of the Senate and is responsible for budgets, staffing and even such details as allocation of offices to senators.

The President of the Senate has a similar role to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Both are Presiding Officers of the Parliament. The President is addressed as Mr or Madam President.



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