Ministers are members of the government and have an area of responsibility known as a portfolio. They may also be in charge of a government department.

THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE IS IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE IS IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Ministers sit on the frontbench of the government side in the House of Representatives.

Ministers sit on the frontbench of the government side in the Senate.

- **Suggest ideas** for new laws or **changes** to current laws
- Are responsible for government departments that put **laws into action**
- **Make decisions** on how the country is run
- **Answer questions** during Question Time

Produced by the Parliamentary Education Office | www.peo.gov.au