

Meetings (sessions) of Parliament

New Parliaments

A Parliament lasts for the term of the Legislative Assembly, which is a maximum of four years calculated from the day on which it first meets after a general election. The Legislative Assembly is subject to earlier dissolution by the Governor. Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) are elected for a fixed term of four years, and take office on 22 May following their election. Unlike the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council cannot be dissolved before its full term expires.

Sessions

Parliament meets and transacts business for a period known as a 'session'. The *Constitution Act 1889* provides that there must be at least one session every 12 months. Sessions are convened by the Governor on the advice of the Executive Council. References to spring, autumn, or budget sessions are not the correct technical descriptions of parliamentary sessions. They are merely colloquial references to the seasons during which the sittings occur (spring, autumn) or the purpose for which they are held (budget). A session commences with the official opening of Parliament by the Governor, and does not end until prorogation of both houses or the dissolution or expiry of the Legislative Assembly. In practice Parliament can consist of one session which runs for the duration of the Parliament (maximum four years).

Sittings

A sitting is a meeting, or series of meetings, of a house. Sitting days, and the times of meeting and adjournment on those days, are fixed by each house through standing or sessional orders. In the course of a session, a house has the right to adjourn by its own motion for a specified period without prior permission of the Governor.

At the close of the last sitting day in a session, both houses adjourn to a date to be fixed by the President or Speaker respectively.



Legislative Council Chamber



Legislative Assembly Chamber

