

Two Houses of Parliament

Australia

In Australia, the lower house is called the House of Representatives. The members of the lower house come from different regions of the country. They are chosen by a popular vote. The number of members in the lower house is set by the size of the population in each state. So larger states have more members than smaller ones. The lower house introduces most laws into the parliament.

There are more members in the lower house than in the upper house, which is called the Senate. The members of the upper house have the power to block or reverse laws passed by the lower house. They are also chosen by a popular vote, but there is an equal number of members for each state. This means that states with small populations are not dominated by states with large populations, which have more members in the lower house.

Canada

In Canada, the lower house is called the House of Commons. Its members are elected by the people to represent each province. The members of the upper house, which is also called the Senate, are not elected by a popular vote. They are chosen by the government. They do not have to retire until they are 75 years old. They can review laws without worrying about being voted out of office. But some people would say that holding office without being elected is not democratic.



*the House of Representatives
in Australia*



*the Senate in
Canada*

The USA

In the USA, the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate are elected by the people. But they are not called houses of parliament. Instead, they are jointly called the Congress.