



- A top level, primary decision-making group within the executive branch of Australian Government
- Senior Ministers of the Crown are appointed by the Governor General on advice of the Prime Minister
- An administrative mechanism which decides on national issues.
- All decisions are accountable to Parliament
- Regular sittings are led by the Prime Minister



Not explicitly provided for in the Australian Constitution, Cabinet is an institution unknown to the law, existing in custom alone.

Cabinet has **de facto** power - an informal body with no legal power or authority under the Australian Constitution. The Cabinet can only form law, not pass law.

De facto - acting in practice

Cabinet directs government policy and legislative proposals, deciding on matters such as Commonwealth expenditure and proposing laws.

Cabinet meetings are conducted in secret, combining two important aspects of responsible government: **Confidentiality** and **Solidarity**

Proceedings are strictly confidential and exempt from freedom of information requests, safeguarding robust debate. Solidarity

Decisions are examined, with actions and checks scrutinised through Parliamentary Question Time and accountability is maintained through a collective responsibility to the Parliament, which all cabinet members are part of.

