

National Cabinet



An intergovernmental body for the federal government to meet with state premiers and territory chief ministers



Coordinated leadership working together in a decision-making forum to manage national crises, such as a pandemic



Regular sittings led by the Prime Minister

Established 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Cabinet includes specialised committees, to provide a coordinated response throughout all states and territories.

The Commonwealth has limited power over the states when responding in times of national crisis. The Australian Constitution provides the power to make laws that recognise the federal nature of government in Australia, placing limits on interference with state and territory bodies and officials.

The state and territory leaders are bound by their own representative parliaments. Leaders can utilise a level of bargaining power against any intention or direction of the Commonwealth Government and are free to make decisions on matters that impact their own jurisdiction, as provided in the Australian Constitution.

Bipartisanship is encouraged as decisions are not legally enforceable.

Proceedings are strictly confidential and exempt from freedom of information requests.

National Cabinet is not recognised as a legal authority under the Australian Constitution and only exists by convention.

