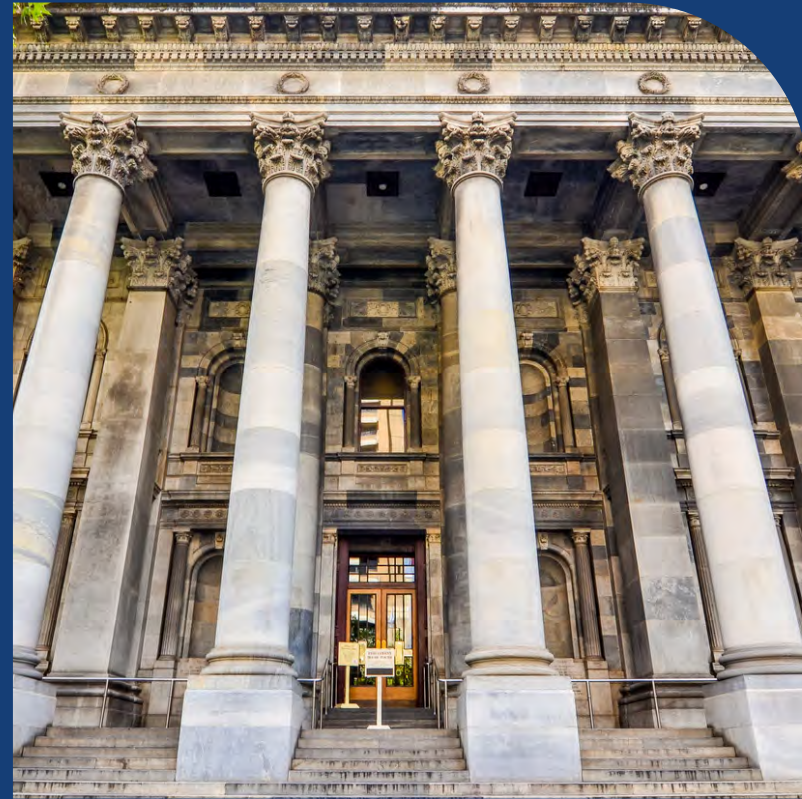


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My visit to Parliament House

Preparing for my visit



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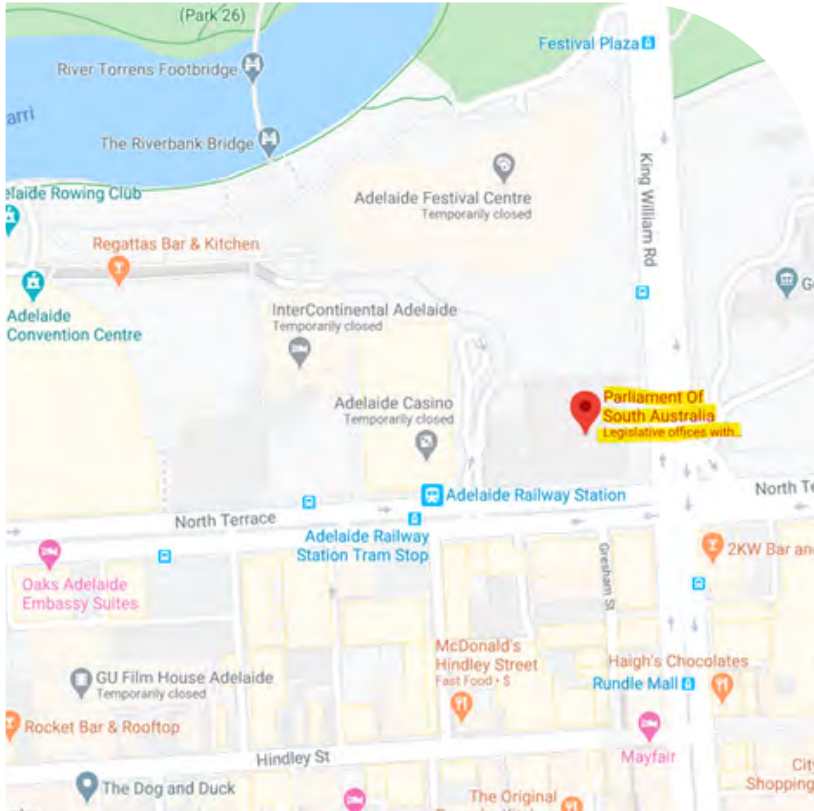


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What is Parliament House?



Parliament House is where elected Members of Parliament make the laws that govern our State. Our Parliamentary system is based on the British Westminster system, which divides the Parliament into two Houses - the House of Assembly (Green Chamber) and the Legislative Council (Red Chamber).

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Waiting outside Parliament House



I will walk with my class up some marble steps to get to the door into Parliament House. My teacher will go inside and let security know that we have arrived. The class may have to wait outside before we go in. That's okay because I can talk to my friends or look at the buildings or people around me.

I will stand in line before we enter Parliament House so the teacher can make sure we are safe.

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Going inside Parliament House



I will go through wooden and glass doors, then through to a small, glassed security section. I will wait in a single file line with my class to go through the security section. It may be a bit tight with lots of people, but that's okay. We can get started on our tour quickly if we all listen to the security guards, put our bags on the security x-ray machine and walk through the body scanner.



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Inside Centre Hall



The next room is a big space with a very high ceiling. There is carpet on the floor and there are two levels above us. It can get quite loud in here at times due to the echo, especially when there are lots of people in there. If it gets too loud, I can always speak to my teacher or an adult with me and move to a quiet room.

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Inside Centre Hall



My teacher will speak to the person at the front desk, and they will call our tour guide.

I will take my bag downstairs to the lockers so that I don't have to carry it all day. It will be locked in the locker and I will get my bag back later. There are toilets near the lockers too.

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The lockers and toilets



I will tell my teacher if I need to go to the toilet and they will take me to a bathroom.

There might be other people in the bathroom too. When I am finished using the toilet, I will wash my hands.

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People at Parliament House



Many people visit Parliament House and many people work there too.

If I get lost, a staff member will be able to help me find my class. Staff members work throughout the building, and they wear a special pass with their photo on it.

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Our tour at Parliament House



My teacher knows what we are going to do and when. My teacher will tell the class where we will be going and we will be moving around Parliament House as a group. I might visit many areas of Parliament House or just a few. I will follow my teacher and I will stay with the group.

My teacher will tell me when I can eat and when I can get my food from my bag.

After we have done all the things that our teacher has planned, we will go to collect our bags.

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Debating at Parliament House



My class might go into the House of Assembly Chamber (the green one) to have a debate. We will be allowed to sit on the green seats.

I will sit as still as I can, listen to the person talking and put my hand up if I have an answer to a question. I will not talk unless I am asked to give an answer. I will not interrupt the person speaking.

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Politicians at Parliament House



When the politicians are working, we might sit in the seats upstairs and watch. I will need to stay sitting in the gallery, and be as quiet as possible.

Sometimes, the Members of Parliament can be a bit loud, but that's okay. If I feel it is too loud I can tell my teacher or another adult and we can find a quiet place.

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Eating at Parliament House



When it is time to eat, I will go with my class to eat outside or we might have a snack in the Old Chamber in Parliament House if my teacher has arranged it with our guide.

I will not eat inside Parliament House unless my teacher tells me I can.

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Touching things at Parliament House



At Parliament House there will be lots of interesting things. I can touch some of these things. There are other things that I cannot touch. I will just look at these things.

I will be told which ones I can touch and which ones to just look at. If I am not sure whether I can touch something I will ask an adult.

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Big spaces at Parliament House



Parliament House is a special building and inside it looks and feels different to home or school. Some rooms in Parliament House are big. Some rooms in Parliament House are small. Some rooms in Parliament House might be dark or bright. If I don't like being in a room and feel uncomfortable, I will tell an adult.

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Things to remember



When I visit Parliament House I must remember to:

- Follow the adult who is leading my group
- Stay close to my group
- Walk and not run
- Speak with my quiet voice, even though it may be noisy
- Take turns with other children
- Wait patiently when I have to line up
- Only touch things I am told that I am allowed to touch

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A note for teachers, parents and carers

Please contact the Community Education Office on 8237 9443 if you require more photos or further supports to prepare your visitors for a trip to Parliament House.

Don't forget to ask the officer taking your booking about a regulation space if your visitors need one.



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