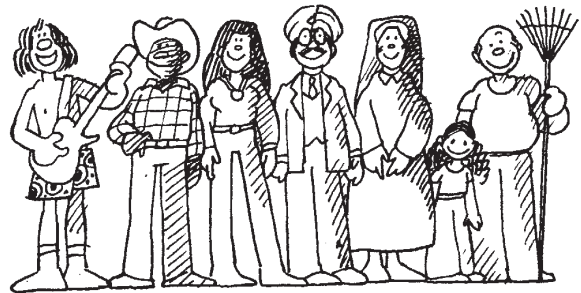


How the people have the power

Citizens of Australia who are 18 years of age or older have the right to become voters.



At election time
voters
vote for ...



Politicians of their choice from a particular political party or an independent candidate. These will become **Members of Parliament** who will represent voters' opinions.
This is called a **representative parliamentary democracy**.

Voters choose 76 people for the **Senate** (Upper House) and 148 people for the **House of Representatives** (Lower House), whose leader is the **Prime Minister**.

The **Queen** is our head of state.

She is represented by the **Governor-General**.

The Commonwealth Parliament House is the place where the laws by which we are governed are made.

