# The House In Session – The Senate

**ABC ME screening details: Wednesday** 27 May, 2020 at 12:05pm

This episode can also be viewed on [ABC iView](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/house-in-session) after the scheduled screening time.

**Key learning areas:** Commerce

**Level:** Secondary

**About:** The Australian Parliament has two chambers. The House of Representatives, which makes laws and votes on them. And the Senate, whose job it is to check the work of the House of Representatives. Learn more about the Senate.

## Before the episode

1. Identify as many facts as you can about the two chambers of the House in the table below

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| House of Representatives | Senate |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. Use the space below to describe what you already know about the role of each house

## During the episode

1. Identify the colour for each chamber house
   1. House of Representatives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Senate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Define the role of the Senate
3. Explain the term ‘cross-bench’
4. Identify the job title of the person in charge of the Senate
5. Outline an ‘amendment’ and its purpose
6. Why is communication between the two chambers so complicated?

## After the episode

1. Draw a flow chart which shows the path of an amendment between the two chambers

**Follow-up activity:** Research the path to becoming a senator. How is it different from being a member of the House of Representatives?

# NSW teacher notes

This is an optional standalone resource that could supplement student learning. The activities align with syllabus outcomes across stages and can be modified to meet the needs of your students. Students can complete the activities while learning at home and in the classroom. All activities can be completed without access to the internet or a device. Teachers could collect student work to offer feedback and as evidence of learning.

## Learning intentions

* To examine the features of the senate and its role in policy and law making for Australia.
* Identify decision making processes and problem solving undertaken within the parliamentary system.

## NSW Commerce 7-10 Syllabus outcomes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Stage 4 | Stage 5 |
| **COM4-3** identifies the role of the law in society | **COM5-3** examines the role of law in society |
| **COM4-4** describes key factors affecting decisions | **COM5-4** analyses key factors affecting decisions |
| **COM4-5** identifies and describes options for solving problems and issues | **COM5-5** evaluates options for solving problems and issues |

[NSW Commerce Year 7-10](https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/learning-areas/hsie/commerce-7-10-2019) Syllabus © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales 2019.