



LIBERAL WOMEN

A PROUD HISTORY OF FIRSTS



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A PROUD HISTORY OF FIRSTS

CONTENTS

Foreword by the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP	...	3
Liberal Women: A Proud History	...	4
The Early Liberal Movement	...	6
The Liberal Party of Australia: Beginnings to 1996	...	8
Key Policy Achievements	...	10
A Proud History of Firsts	...	11
The Howard Years	...	12
Key Policy Achievements	...	14
A Proud History of Firsts	...	15
The Present	...	16
Key Policy Achievements	...	18
A Proud History of Firsts	...	19
Looking Ahead	...	20
Our Team	...	24

FOREWORD

The Liberal Party of Australia is the party of opportunity and choice for all Australians. From its inception in 1944, the Liberal Party has had a proud history of advancing opportunities for Australian women. It has done so from a strong philosophical tradition of respect for competence and contribution, regardless of gender, religion or ethnicity.

While other political parties have represented specific interests within the Australian community such as the trade union or environmental movements, the Liberal Party has always proudly demonstrated a broad and inclusive membership that has better understood the aspirations of all Australians and not least Australian women.

The Liberal Party also has a long history of pre-selecting and supporting women to serve in Parliament. Dame Enid Lyons, the first female member of the House of Representatives, a member of the United Australia Party and then the Liberal Party, served Australia with exceptional competence during the Menzies years. She demonstrated the passion, capability and drive that are characteristic of the strong Liberal women who have helped shape our nation.

As one of the many female Liberal parliamentarians, and one of the thousands of female Liberal Party members across Australia, I am truly proud of our party's history. I am proud to be a member of a party with a diverse parliamentary team that aspires to represent all Australians.

As members of a party founded on concepts of freedom and opportunity, it is natural for Liberals to support the aspirations of women. So, it is an honour to compile and edit this booklet reflecting on our enviable history as a party with strong female leadership. I hope that the contents of this book will help inspire a new generation of women to make an energetic contribution to our great nation's future.

The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP

Federal Member for Higgins
Minister for Revenue and Financial Services
Minister for Women
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service





We believe

- In the inalienable rights and freedoms of all peoples; and we work towards a lean government that minimises interference in our daily lives; and maximises individual and private sector initiative
- In government that nurtures and encourages its citizens through incentive, rather than putting limits on people through the punishing disincentives of burdensome taxes and the stifling structures of Labor's corporate state and bureaucratic red tape.
- In those most basic freedoms of parliamentary democracy – the freedom of thought, worship, speech and association.
- In a just and humane society in which the importance of the family and the role of law and justice is maintained.
- In equal opportunity for all Australians; and the encouragement and facilitation of wealth so that all may enjoy the highest possible standards of living, health, education and social justice.
- That, wherever possible, government should not compete with an efficient private sector; and that businesses and individuals - not government - are the true creators of wealth and employment.
- In preserving Australia's natural beauty and the environment for future generations.
- That our nation has a constructive role to play in maintaining world peace and democracy through alliance with other free nations.

A PROUD HISTORY

The Liberal Party is the party of opportunity, reward and choice in Australia.

Since its formation in 1944, the Liberal Party has been the party that has created more opportunities for Australian women.

We achieved this by implementing policies that strengthened the economy, supported families and recognised reward for effort. We have been, and continue to be, committed to providing greater legal, economic and social opportunities for all.

The Liberal Party has also strived to support and promote women into Parliament. Since Federation, the Coalition has had greater female representation in both the Cabinet and the Ministry than the Labor Party. We are incredibly proud of the many political and social milestones that have been achieved by the women of our party.

As Dame Enid Lyons, the first woman ever elected to the House of Representatives, articulated in her first speech to Parliament, we are a party that chooses candidates on their merits. Our record continues to demonstrate a commitment to supporting talented women throughout Australia who have come to a life of public service from a variety of backgrounds and with a broad range of experiences.



A PROUD HISTORY



THE EARLY LIBERAL MOVEMENT



THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: BEGINNINGS TO 1996



THE HOWARD YEARS (1996-2007)



THE PRESENT



LOOKING AHEAD

THE EARLY LIBERAL MOVEMENT

Women were a major force in the early liberal movement who organised to promote liberal ideas and support women into parliament.



The Australian Women's National League at its peak had 500 branches and more than 50,000 members across Australia.

Female suffrage and political participation were priorities of the early liberal movement, and this mobilised many women to form political organisations supporting the liberal cause. These organisations would later play a major role in the formation of the Liberal Party.

In 1902, Mrs Hilma Molyneux Parkes, who had been a leader in the New South Wales suffrage movement, formed the Women's Liberal League of NSW. The League fought hard and was ultimately successful in winning the right for women to vote in pre-selections.

In 1904, the Australian Women's National League (AWNL) was formed in Victoria in support of the liberal cause. Prior to the First World War, the AWNL was probably the largest political organisation in Australia. With Lady Janet Clarke, and later Eva Hughes, as its President it had more than 50,000 members across Australia. It was arguably the single most effective electoral organisation for liberal ideas in its day.

Women's liberal leagues worked hard to support the election of women into Parliament, and were ultimately successful. In the 1920s, Prime Minister Stanley Bruce, a member of one of the Liberal Party's predecessors, the Nationalist Party, stated that the best candidates should be pre-selected, regardless of gender. During his time as Prime Minister, the first women were elected to State Parliaments representing the Nationalist Party. These included Edith Cowan in Western Australia, Millicent Preston Stanley in New South Wales, and Irene Longman in Queensland. Respected author on Liberal women, Margaret Fitzherbert, noted that each of these women "was a veteran of women's organisations and fought for policies that benefited women and children".

In 1933, Lady Millie Peacock, a member of the United Australia Party, the predecessor to the Liberal Party, was the first woman to be elected to the Victorian Parliament.

In 1942, the Women for Canberra Movement publicised the need for women to be elected to all Australian Parliaments. While women had the right to be elected to Federal Parliament from 1902, none had succeeded. The Movement brought this important issue into the public debate, with Sir Robert Menzies agreeing that gender should be neither a disqualification nor a qualification for election to Parliament.

Menzies recognised that the work and aspirations of women had changed, and in one of his Forgotten People radio broadcasts said:

"There is – and every year I live, every new experience I have convinces me of it more and more – there is courage, energy, skill and resource about women which can serve this land mightily."



A PROUD HISTORY



THE EARLY LIBERAL MOVEMENT



THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: BEGINNINGS TO 1996



THE HOWARD YEARS (1996 – 2007)



THE PRESENT



LOOKING AHEAD

THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: BEGINNINGS TO 1996



The Liberal Party was founded on October 16, 1944 after a three day conference in Albury in NSW.

Sir Robert Menzies strongly believed in equality of opportunity for both women and men, and saw women as important contributors to the liberal cause. At the Albury Conference in 1944, where the structure of the modern Liberal Party was determined, Menzies said:

“Women are unquestionably destined to exercise more and more influence upon practical politics in Australia... In the educating of the electorate in liberal ideas they have for many years been an effective force. Now we have an organisation in which all distinctions have gone, and with men and women working equally for the one body...”

Dame Elizabeth Couchman, Dame Ivy Wedgewood and Edith Haynes worked with Menzies to ensure that women were represented in the Liberal Party. Dame Elizabeth successfully negotiated a deal with Menzies to merge the Australian Women’s National League with the Liberal Party, and in doing so helped secure reserved positions for women within branches and at State Councils, particularly in Victoria.

The Liberal Party’s first Federal Council was held in August 1945, and it was here that the Federal Women’s Committee was established. Just over a year later, the Federal Women’s Committee was incorporated into the constitution of the Liberal Party and secured representation for women on the Party’s Federal Executive.

The Federal Women’s Committee worked to ensure that the Liberal Party’s federal platform on the “Status of Women” was updated by Menzies to include:

- equality of opportunity, liberties and status for men and women; and equal freedom to engage in all civic and political activities in the community;
- the elimination of anomalies in employment opportunities for women, and the institution of further enquiries into the principles of assessing women’s wage rates with a view to the correction of existing injustices;
- uniformity of marriage and divorce laws within the Commonwealth;
- the appointment of women to committees, commissions or similar bodies concerned with the status and rights of women, housing policy, and the care and education of children and like matters; and
- every practical assistance towards ensuring the provision of all modern and progressive domestic amenities for women, particularly in country areas.

The idea of equal opportunity for both women and men, and the active recognition of the role women could play in public life did not end with Menzies. It was in 1966, under Harold Holt’s Prime Ministership that Dame Annabelle Rankin became the first woman to administer

a government department. In the same year, Dame Ivy Wedgewood became the first woman to be elected as Acting Chairman of Committees in the Senate.

Harold Holt, along with the Liberal Party’s Federal Women’s Committee, also worked to address the inequalities women faced in the workplace. For example, in 1966 he oversaw the dismantling of the Marriage Bar in the Commonwealth Public Service which had required women to give up their jobs once married.

Policies designed to support women were developed even further under Malcolm Fraser’s leadership. Fraser sought to tackle issues affecting women using a whole of government approach. In 1976 he asked the Attorney-General and the Ministers for Health, Education, Environment, Housing and Community Development, Ethnic Affairs, Immigration and Social Security to set up units within their own departments to specifically focus on the development of policy for women. He also established the first ministerial portfolio for women’s affairs.



A PROUD HISTORY



THE EARLY LIBERAL MOVEMENT



THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: BEGINNINGS TO 1996



THE HOWARD YEARS (1996 – 2007)



THE PRESENT



LOOKING AHEAD

Key Policy ACHIEVEMENTS

→ 1949-66 MENZIES GOVERNMENT

- 1950 Extension of Child Endowment Scheme to first born children
- 1950 National Health Scheme announced
- 1959 Matrimonial Causes Act passed, affording women greater equality when seeking a divorce or separation

→ 1966-72 HOLT, GORTON & MCMAHON GOVERNMENTS

- 1966 Marriage bar in the Commonwealth Public Service dismantled
- 1968 Protection for deserted wives legislation passed
- 1972 Child Care Act passed, introducing funding of childcare at the federal level

→ 1975-83 FRASER GOVERNMENT

- 1976 Family allowance, paid to mothers, is introduced
First ministerial portfolio focusing on women's affairs established
- 1978 Establishment of National Women's Advisory Council, convened by Dame Beryl Beaurepaire



Dame Annabelle Rankin (left) pictured with Dame Enid Lyons in 1949.



Minister Margaret Guilfoyle visits the St Vincent de Paul women's centre in Mawson in 1977.



A PROUD HISTORY



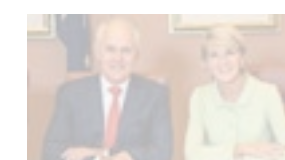
THE EARLY LIBERAL MOVEMENT



THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: BEGINNINGS TO 1996



THE HOWARD YEARS (1996-2007)



THE PRESENT



LOOKING AHEAD

A Proud History of FIRSTS

"This is the first occasion upon which a woman has addressed this House. For that reason, it is an occasion which, for every woman in the Commonwealth, marks in some degree a turning point in history."

– Dame Enid Lyons, Maiden Speech, 1943



**THE HON
DAME ENID LYONS** AD GBE

First woman elected to the House of Representatives
First woman in Federal Cabinet (as Vice-President of the Executive Council in 1949)



**THE HON
DAME ANNABELLE RANKIN** DBE

First woman whip in any Westminster Parliament
First woman to hold ministerial responsibility in Federal Parliament
First woman to head an Australian diplomatic mission as High Commissioner to New Zealand
First woman senator for Queensland



**AGNES
ROBERTSON**

First woman to lead a Senate ticket for a major party



**DAME IVY
WEDGWOOD** DBE

First woman elected as Acting Chairman of Committees in the Senate
First woman to chair a Senate committee
First woman senator from Victoria



**DAME NANCY
BUTTERFIELD** DBE

First woman to represent South Australia in the federal Parliament and to be nominated to fill a casual vacancy in the Senate



**THE HON
EILEEN FURLEY** OBE

First woman from New South Wales to gain pre-selection for the Senate



**THE HON
DAME MARGARET
GUILFOYLE** AC DBE

First woman to hold a federal economic portfolio as Finance Minister
First woman to hold a Federal Cabinet position and have responsibility for a portfolio as Minister for Social Security
First woman Minister for Education



**KAY
BROWNBILL** OBE

First woman MP from South Australia, and third woman to be elected to the House of Representatives



**MARY (SHIRLEY)
WALTERS**

First woman Senator for Tasmania

THE HOWARD YEARS (1996-2007)



Prime Minister John Howard pictured with his incoming team of women after the successful 1996 Federal Election.

From 1996 to 2007, Prime Minister John Howard continued the Liberal Party’s strong tradition of supporting and improving the lives of women in Australia.

The Howard Government committed itself to an Australia where women were full and active participants in all spheres of public and private life, and implemented a number of policies to support them into the workforce.

In 2000, the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act, designed to reduce workplace discrimination against women, came into effect. The Government also endeavoured to make it easier for women to re-enter the workforce after having children by increasing the number of child care places, introducing the child care tax rebate and encouraging flexible family-friendly work practices. The Government also amended the *Sex Discrimination Act* to explicitly recognise breastfeeding as a potential ground of unlawful dismissal in the workplace.

With the support of these policies, women started to take on a greater role in business and industry, with nearly a third of small businesses around the country being operated by women and women accounting for over a third of all seats on Australian Government boards and bodies.

The Howard Government identified declining birth rates as an important issue and introduced a number of policies to support Australian families. These measures included the introduction of the Baby Bonus in 2002, substantial increases in the rates of family benefits and subsidies for women facing difficulties with infertility.

The Howard Government also made improvements to superannuation that benefited women. Jocelyn Newman, then the Minister assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women, pioneered legislation that required divorcing couples to split their superannuation either by agreement or court order. The Howard Government also helped women supplement their superannuation savings through the Superannuation Co-contribution Scheme, which ultimately matched the superannuation contribution of eligible employees by up to \$1,500 per year.

The safety of women was also a top priority for the Howard Government, with significant funds dedicated to the ‘*Women’s Safety Agenda*’ which addressed four broad themes of prevention, health, justice and services. The initiatives included further supporting the national ‘*Violence Against Women, Australia Says No*’ campaign and a national 24-hour helpline.

The Liberal Party also continued to support the pre-selection and election of women to Parliament throughout the Howard Years. The 1996 election saw a record number of Liberal Women serving in Parliament, with 25 female Members and Senators. This increase in female representation was in part due to the work of groups like the NSW Liberal Women’s Forum, which offered a training program for women seeking pre-selection for Parliament. This Forum still runs programs to support potential female candidates today.



Key Policy ACHIEVEMENTS

→ 1996-2007 HOWARD GOVERNMENT

- 1996 Maternity Allowance introduced
- 1997 National Domestic Violence Summit convened
Partnerships Against Domestic Violence, a national strategy in which Heads of Government worked together to prevent domestic violence was launched
Child Care Access Hotline established and child care places significantly increased
- 2000 Equal opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act passed
Child Care Benefit introduced
Major tax system reforms initiated, ultimately increasing family tax benefits and the low income tax offset
Stronger Families and Communities Strategy announced to improve the flexibility of child care
- 2001 Funding for a National Initiative to combat sexual assault announced
- 2002 Baby bonus introduced
Introduction of legislation pioneered by Jocelyn Newman to allow separating couples to divide their superannuation by agreement or court order
- 2003 Sex Discrimination Act explicitly recognising breastfeeding as a potential ground of unlawful dismissal in the workplace came into effect
Superannuation co-contribution introduced
- 2004 Superannuation co-contribution enhanced with a higher maximum contribution of \$1,500
- 2005 Child Care Tax Rebate introduced



A PROUD HISTORY



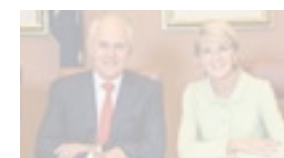
THE EARLY LIBERAL MOVEMENT



THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: BEGINNINGS TO 1996



THE HOWARD YEARS (1996-2007)



THE PRESENT



LOOKING AHEAD



THE HON
KATHY SULLIVAN AM

First woman to serve in both houses of Federal Parliament
First woman to hold whip positions in the Senate and the House of Representatives



THE HON
MARGARET REID AO

First woman to be elected as President of the Senate



THE HON
TRISH WORTH AM

First woman Deputy Government Whip in the House of Representatives



THE HON
AMANDA VANSTONE

First woman Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
First woman Minister for Employment
First woman Minister for Justice



THE HON
BRONWYN BISHOP

First woman to be popularly elected as a Senator for New South Wales



THE HON
JACKIE KELLY

First woman to give birth whilst serving as a Minister in the Commonwealth Parliament



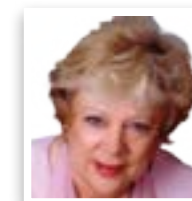
THE HON
HELEN COONAN

First woman Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate
First woman Minister for Communications
First woman to hold a Treasury portfolio outside of Cabinet



THE HON
DANNA VALE

First woman Minister for Veteran's Affairs



THE HON
FRAN BAILEY

First woman to hold a rural electorate
First woman Minister for Small Business



THE HON
JULIE BISHOP MP

First woman to hold a science portfolio

THE PRESENT



Malcolm Turnbull with current female Liberal Cabinet Ministers; Senator the Hon Marise Payne; The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP; The Hon Julie Bishop MP; and Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash.

In recent times, the Coalition Government has made it a priority to enable women to lead secure lives in safe communities, to further women's economic independence and security, and to increase the number of women in leadership roles in both the private and public sector.

The Government is determined to reduce the rates of violence against women and their children. In June 2014, the Second Action Plan under the

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2013–2016) was launched, supported by \$100 million in funding over four years. The Plan included initiatives such as the development and testing of a prototype for a *National Domestic Violence Order Scheme* and funding for *1800RESPECT*, Australia's first national professional telephone and online counselling service for those affected by violence.

In 2015, former Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced that addressing violence against women would be a COAG priority. He also announced the establishment of the COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children, with Rosie Batty and former Victoria Police Chief Commissioner, Ken Lay, as founding members. The Government and COAG also launched a \$30 million campaign aimed at reducing the incidence of family and domestic violence.



The Coalition Leadership Team: Julie Bishop MP, Malcolm Turnbull MP, Michael McCormack MP, Senator Bridget McKenzie.

In September 2015, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Senator Michaelia Cash announced the \$100 million Women's Safety Package, a key part of our longer term response to addressing violence against women. This was followed, in 2016, by the \$100 million Third Action Plan under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2016 – 2019) and funding for the advertising campaign 'Stop it at the Start', Community Legal Centres and specialist domestic violence units. The Government remains committed to reducing family violence with funding for women's safety measures well in excess of \$300 million.

Boosting women's workforce participation has also been a priority for the Government given it is the key way of strengthening women's economic security. It was under Australia's presidency in 2014 that the G20 committed to the goal of reducing the gender gap in participation rates by 25 per cent by 2025. Female participation in Australia is at record levels with more women in work than ever before. In order that we continue to improve female financial security, both now and into retirement, the Minister for Women will deliver a Women's Economic Security Statement in Spring 2018.

The boost in female participation has been driven by policies such as the Jobs for Families Child Care Package, which is aimed at making child care more affordable and accessible. The Government is investing an additional \$2.5 billion in funding for child care through the package, which is expected to benefit around one million families.

The Government has also looked at other ways of improving women's financial security and consulted with women and business on how to address women's superannuation imbalances which arise, in no small part, due to their caring responsibilities. The Government also launched the *Women's Money Toolkit* in 2014, a free online resource providing practical tools for women to manage their finances.



Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott with Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.

Another key focus of the Government is to enable women to take on leadership roles both on Government boards and in the private sector. As at 31 December 2017, 44.5 per cent of Australian Government board positions were held by women, exceeding our previous gender diversity target of 40 per cent. The Government, however, is not complacent and has set an ambitious but achievable target of women holding 50 per cent of Australian Government board positions.

The Government has also partnered with a number of leading organisations such as the Wirrpanda Foundation, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Australian Mines and Metals Association to help lift the representation of women in leadership roles by providing scholarships and support for education and mentoring.

While undertaking this important work, the Liberal Party has remained focussed on our own endeavours to support more women into Parliament. Many of the state divisions of the Liberal Party currently run seminars, training courses and mentoring programs for talented women with political aspirations. In Victoria, for example, there is the Dame Elizabeth Couchman Scholarship to provide opportunities for women to broaden their political understanding and knowledge. There is also extensive work being undertaken at the Federal level to coordinate these state-run programs and to develop a national strategy to help potential female candidates succeed.



A PROUD HISTORY



THE EARLY LIBERAL MOVEMENT



THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: BEGINNINGS TO 1996



THE HOWARD YEARS (1996–2007)



THE PRESENT



LOOKING AHEAD

Key Policy ACHIEVEMENTS

→ 2013–PRESENT

→ June 2014	Women's Money Toolkit launched Second Action Plan under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2013–2016) launched
→ January 2015	COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children established
→ March 2015	\$30 million in state and federal funding for a public awareness campaign on domestic violence announced
→ May 2015	Child Care Subsidy and Child Care Safety Net announced in the 2015–2016 Budget Families Package
→ July 2015	Office of the eSafety Commissioner established
→ September 2015	\$100 million committed to the Women's Safety Package
→ December 2015	Initiatives to support women into STEM COAG agreement to introduce a <i>National Domestic Violence Order (DVO) Scheme</i>
→ March 2016	Target of women holding 50 per cent of positions on government boards announced
→ April 2016	' <i>Stop it at the Start</i> ' national campaign aimed at reducing violence against women launched
→ October 2016	A further \$100 million committed to the Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010–2022
→ March 2017	Legislated the new Child Care Package investing an additional \$2.5 billion benefitting nearly one million Australian families
→ May 2017	Over \$55 million in funding for family legal assistance services announced \$1.5 billion per year for new National Housing and Homelessness Agreement announced
→ October 2017	Pilot online complaints portal for people affected by non-consensual sharing of intimate images launched
→ December 2017	Legislation to improve the family law system's response to family violence introduced Enhancing Online Safety (Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Bill 2017 introduced
→ February 2018	Additional \$440 million in funding to support universal access to pre-school for all children in 2019 announced, on top of the \$428 million announced in the 2017–2018 Budget to continue support for pre-school throughout 2018 Record women's workforce participation rate of 60.6 per cent achieved
→ May 2018	An additional \$54.4 million to services for women affected by violence and online safety initiatives Record investment in the health of Australians with measures to support women at every life stage including a digital baby book; access to whooping cough vaccines during pregnancy; increased investment to tackle endometriosis and gestational diabetes and the listing of advanced breast cancer medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme



A PROUD HISTORY



THE EARLY LIBERAL MOVEMENT



THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: BEGINNINGS TO 1996



THE HOWARD YEARS (1996–2007)



THE PRESENT



LOOKING AHEAD

A Proud History of FIRSTS



**THE HON
JULIE BISHOP MP**
First woman Foreign Minister



**SENATOR THE HON
MARISE PAYNE**
First woman
Defence Minister



**SENATOR THE HON
MICHAELIA CASH**
First woman Minister assisting
the Prime Minister for the Public
Service



**THE HON
KELLY O'DWYER MP**
First woman to sit in cabinet
in a treasury portfolio
First woman Cabinet
Minister to give birth while
in office



**SENATOR THE HON
CONCETTA
FIERRAVANTI-WELLS**
First woman Minister for
International Development
and the Pacific



**NOLA
MARINO MP**
First woman appointed to the
position of Chief Government
Whip in the House of
Representatives



**NATASHA
GRIGGS**
First woman member of the
House of Representatives to
represent the Northern Territory



LOOKING AHEAD

The Liberal Party values women and men as co-contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of our dynamic nation.

Whatever a woman's circumstances and aspirations, she should have the opportunity to live the life of her choice, free from violence and discrimination, and safe in the knowledge that her gender will be no barrier.

In spite of the many rights and privileges Australian women enjoy today, there is still more that can be done to overcome the challenges women face both here and abroad. As a party, our priorities are to enable women to lead secure lives in safe communities, improve flexibility in child care and working arrangements, and further economic independence and stability.

We also continue to be committed to promoting Liberal women into parliament, and have set a target of having 50 per cent female representation in both houses of Parliament by 2025. To help us achieve this goal, we have established the '*Enid Lyons Fighting Fund*' for Liberal women to give female candidates the financial backing they need to run for Parliament. This recognises the particular fiscal challenges that potential female candidates sometimes face in making a contribution to the nation's Parliament.

We, both women and men, are inspired by the many milestones achieved by and for women in our party's history. We look forward to continuing to build on our proud history of firsts.



A PROUD HISTORY



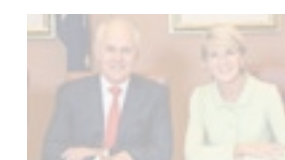
THE EARLY LIBERAL MOVEMENT



THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: BEGINNINGS TO 1996



THE HOWARD YEARS (1996–2007)



THE PRESENT



LOOKING AHEAD

COALITION WOMEN 2018



CURRENT FEMALE COALITION MPS & SENATORS



THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP
Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party;
Minister for Foreign Affairs
History: Managing Partner of a national commercial law firm

MEMBER FOR **CURTIN**



SENATOR THE HON BRIDGET MCKENZIE
Deputy Leader of the Nationals;
Minister for Sport; Minister for Regional Communications;
Minister for Rural Health
History: High school teacher; University academic

SENATOR FOR **VIC**



SENATOR THE HON MARISE PAYNE
Minister for Defence
History: National Young Liberals' first female president; Political adviser; Public affairs adviser

SENATOR FOR **NSW**



SENATOR THE HON MICHAELIA CASH
Minister for Jobs and Innovation
History: Employment and Industrial Relations lawyer

SENATOR FOR **WA**



THE HON KELLY O'DWYER MP
Minister for Revenue and Financial Services;
Minister for Women;
Minister assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service
History: Corporate lawyer; Banking executive

MEMBER FOR **HIGGINS**



SENATOR THE HON CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS
Minister for International Development and the Pacific
History: Senior Lawyer; Australian Government Solicitor

SENATOR FOR **NSW**



THE HON KAREN ANDREWS MP
Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills
History: Mechanical engineer; Human resources and industrial relations consultant

MEMBER FOR **MCPHERSON**



THE HON MELISSA PRICE MP
Assistant Minister for the Environment
History: Lawyer; Senior roles in private law practice and at agricultural and resources companies

MEMBER FOR **DURACK**



THE HON JANE PRENTICE MP
Assistant Minister for Social Services and Disability Services
History: Brisbane City Councillor (and Civic Cabinet); Owner and Managing Director of a convention and event management business

MEMBER FOR **RYAN**



SENATOR THE HON ANNERUSTON
Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
History: Owner of Ruston's Roses, Australia's largest rose garden; CEO of National Wine Centre

SENATOR FOR **SA**

**NOLA MARINO MP**

Chief Government Whip
History: Dairy farmer; Small business owner

MEMBER FOR FORREST**MICHELLE LANDRY MP**

Chief Nationals Whip;
 Chair of Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources
History: Small business owner; Banking officer; Electorate officer

MEMBER FOR CAPRICORNIA**JULIA BANKS MP**

Chair of Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs
History: Lawyer; Chief General Counsel and Company Secretary in leading global organisations

MEMBER FOR CHISHOLM**NICOLLE FLINT MP**

*History: Policy advisor to Federal and State Liberal Party leaders;
 Policy advisor at a major business association; Columnist; Research fellow*

MEMBER FOR BOOTHBY**SENATOR LUCY GICHUHI**

Chair of Education and Employment Legislation Committee;
 Deputy Chair of Education and Employment References Committee;
 Deputy Chair of Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers
History: Lawyer; Accountant; Auditor

SENATOR FOR SA**SARAH HENDERSON MP**

Chair of Standing Committee on Economics
History: Journalist; Lawyer

MEMBER FOR CORANGAMITE**SENATOR JANE HUME**

Chair of Economics Legislation Committee;
 Deputy Chair of Economics References Committee
*History: Senior superannuation policy adviser;
 Senior banking and funds management executive*

SENATOR FOR VIC**THE HON SUSAN LEY MP**

Chair of Joint Standing Committee on the National Broadband Network
History: Farmer; Commercial pilot; Air traffic controller; Tax professional

MEMBER FOR FARRER**SENATOR LINDA REYNOLDS CSC**

Chair of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee;
 Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters;
 Chair of Standing Committee on Publications;
 Deputy Chair of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee;
 Deputy Chair of Joint Committee on Publications
History: Army Reserve Officer; Army Adjutant General; Deputy Director Liberal Party

SENATOR FOR WA**SENATOR AMANDA STOKER**

History: Lawyer; Associate with a Justice of the High Court

SENATOR FOR QLD**ANN SUDMALIS MP**

Chair of Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs
*History: Councillor, Kiama Municipal Council; High school science teacher;
 Company director, fudge-making business*

MEMBER FOR GILMORE**LUCY WICKS MP**

Chair of Standing Committee on Petitions
History: Teacher; Electorate officer and adviser; Corporate Affairs; Government Relations

MEMBER FOR ROBERTSON

LIBERAL WOMEN

A PROUD HISTORY OF FIRSTS



Further Information:

If you are interested in further information on the women of the Liberal Party, or the Party itself, we would recommend the following books:

The Menzies Era

John Howard, 2014.

So Many Firsts: Liberal Women from Enid Lyons to the Turnbull Era,

Margaret Fitzherbert, 2009.

Liberal Women: Federation to 1949,

Margaret Fitzherbert, 2004.

The Forgotten People,

Robert Menzies, 1943.

