Senate Brief

No. 3 December 2015

# Women in the Senate

Women throughout Australia have had the right to vote in elections for the national Parliament for more than one hundred years. For all that time, they have also had the right to sit in the Australian Parliament.

Australia was the first country in the world to give most women both the right to vote and the right to stand for Parliament when, in 1902, the federal Parliament passed legislation to provide for a uniform franchise throughout the Commonwealth. In spite of this early beginning, it was 1943 before a woman was elected to the Senate or the House of Representatives. As of September 2015, 40 of the 150 members of the House of Representatives are women, and of the 76 senators, 29 are women.

*The Commonwealth Franchise Act 1902* stated that 'all persons not under twenty-one years of age whether male or female married or unmarried' would be entitled to vote in federal elections. (The Act excluded Aboriginal women and men unless they were eligible to vote under state law). One of the qualifications for candidates for election to Parliament is that they are eligible to vote in federal elections. The removal of the requirement that voters be male, which had been carried into the first federal elections in 1901 by all states except South Australia and Western Australia, also removed that qualification on eligibility to stand for the federal Parliament. Once women had the right to vote in federal elections, they had the right to become members of Parliament. This issue was barely discussed in parliamentary debates on the Franchise Act in 1902.

There was a lot of public discussion, however, when, in December 1903, at the first federal election following the passage of the Act, four women nominated for election. Vida Goldstein (Victoria), and Nellie Martel and Mary Ann Moore Bentley (New South Wales), stood for election to the Senate, and Selina Anderson stood for the seat of Dalley (New South Wales) in the House of Representatives. They were the first women nominated for any national Parliament within what was then the British Empire; none of the women were elected.

## Women as federal candidates

Australia was one of the first countries in the world to give full political rights to women, but was one of the last western countries to elect women to its national Parliament (refer to the table on page 6).

There were limited opportunities to vote for women before the end of the Second World War, as few women stood for election. Between 1903 and 1943 only 26 women in total nominated for election for either house.

No woman was endorsed by a major party as a candidate for the Senate before the beginning of the Second World War. Overwhelmingly dominated by men, the established political parties saw men as being more suited to advancing their political causes. It was thought that neither men nor women would vote for female candidates.

Many early feminists distrusted the established parties, as formed by men and protective of men's interests. Those who presented themselves as candidates did so as independents or on the tickets of minor parties. Vida Goldstein, for example, refused to align herself with the Labor Party, which shared many of her sympathies, and so denied herself possible back-up and support. In 1903 she wrote:

> *Women should carry on the fight and the campaign by means of their own organisations, and not by means of any existing ones controlled and directed by men. If they do the latter, they must adopt men's methods and men's aims, and simply help in perpetuating the old order of things. The right of the franchise will have been bestowed on them for no purpose.*
>
> Australian Woman's Sphere, 10 July 1903

During the Second World War, while many men were in the armed services, women were employed in jobs that had previously been reserved for men. It became more common for women to work outside the home, and to actively participate in aspects of public life, such as politics.

Social changes affecting women brought about by the war appear to have contributed to the election of the first two women to the federal Parliament in 1943. While only eight women in total nominated for election to the Senate between 1903 and 1943, five women nominated in 1943 alone. Where previously the maximum number of women to nominate at any election for the House of Representatives had been four (in 1934), nineteen women nominated in 1943.

In August 1943 Dorothy Tangney, the first woman to gain endorsement for the Senate by the Australian Labor Party, managed to gather enough preferences to fill an extra vacancy caused by the death of a Western Australian senator. At the same election, Dame Enid Lyons, well-known as the widow of former Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, won one of the five House of Representatives seats for Tasmania for the United Australia Party. In New South Wales, Jessie Street won the highest number of primary votes for the seat of Wentworth, but was defeated on preferences.

## Election of women to the Senate

Ten women stood for the Senate election of December 1949, and two were elected. This was the first election in which a system of proportional representation voting was implemented for Senate elections. This system requires that multiple candidates obtain a proportion of the votes cast, rather than a majority. (See *Electing Australia's Senators*, Senate Brief No. 1). Proportional representation is thought to be more favourable than other systems to the election of women because it represents electors and their interests inclusively, and because it encourages the election of members of small parties and minority groups, which women have often sought to represent.

Any benefit was slow to be felt, however, as the proportion of women in the Senate did not improve, and even regressed, over the next 25 years. While more women were being nominated for election to the Senate throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the major parties continued to withhold their support, in the belief that women could not poll well in federal elections. Women were endorsed by the major parties, but invariably for elections for difficult or even unwinnable seats. In July 1971, there were still only two women senators, and seven women in total had served in the Senate since Federation. During much of this period there were no women in the House of Representatives.

While improvement in their parliamentary representation was slow to eventuate, Australian women made important gains in political, civil and economic rights during this period. In the 1960s, the bar on married women in the Commonwealth Public Service was lifted, women were granted equal pay for equal work, and increasing numbers of young women gained access to university studies. Reforms such as this gathered into a tide of feminism, which was fuelled by the foundation of the Women's Electoral Lobby in 1972. In the 1970s and 1980s the Commonwealth Parliament enacted a number of laws to promote the status of women, provide them with equal opportunities and prevent discrimination against them and, ultimately, to implement affirmative action to remove barriers to equality.

Women senators played an important role in these improvements to the equality of Australian society for women. The introduction by Senator Susan Ryan in 1981 of a private senator's bill on sex discrimination was particularly significant. Although this bill did not proceed, Senator Ryan introduced an amended version in 1983 when she was Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women. The bill was passed and became the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984*. Other Acts resulting from Senator Ryan's original 1981 bill were the *Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act 1986*, the P*ublic Service Reform Act 1984* and the *Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act 1987*.

Women began to seek political office more actively, and the political parties at last began to recognise the value and justice of encouraging female candidates. The Australian Labor Party first adopted an affirmative action program that set quotas to be achieved in the endorsement of female candidates for parliamentary elections in 1981. From 2012 Labor women will stand for at least 40 per cent of seats, as will men. The Liberal Party used women's networks within the party to recruit, mentor and train women to stand and campaign for election. The Australian Democrats, founded in 1977 without the traditional structure and allegiances of the older parties, from the outset was a party which subscribed to gender equity, and this has led to there being many female Democrats senators in every Parliament since the party was formed. The first Greens senator elected was Senator Jo Vallentine from Western Australia. Since July 1990, Greens have had female representation in the Senate. Of a total of seventeen Greens senators, eleven have been women, with five of the ten Greens senators in the present Parliament being women.

During the 1980s and 1990s the number of women in parliaments Australia-wide increased steadily. In the Australian Senate, by July 1991, there were eighteen women senators, and by July 1996 there were twenty-three, or a little over 30 per cent of Senate membership. From September 2015, just over 38 per cent of senators are women.

## Perceptions of women in politics

Women senators have made an immense contribution to changing public perceptions of the role of women in politics. While throughout the years a number have been active in areas traditionally associated with women's interests such as health care, education, the arts and family and community matters, there are now no areas of public policy in which female senators are not engaged. It would be difficult to detect a bias in the subject matter of the wide range of Senate committees on which women presently serve and chair.

In 1946 an amendment to section 51 of the Australian Constitution gave the Commonwealth the right to legislate on a wide range of matters affecting social security, and after that time the Commonwealth began exercising power in relation to laws affecting family and domestic matters. In the past fifty years, such issues have assumed more status and political significance. The first ministry held by a woman, in 1966, was Housing (Annabelle Rankin), and the first Senate legislative and general purpose standing committee to have a female Chair, in 1970, was the Health and Welfare Committee (Ivy Wedgwood).

Women have assumed other leadership roles in the Senate. In 1986, Senator Janine Haines became the first woman in Australia to lead a political party when she took over the leadership of the Australian Democrats. Five subsequent Democrats leaders have been women, and as leaders of a party that has frequently held the balance of power in the Senate, all have played a central role in negotiations for the amendment and passage of important legislation.

Senator Margaret Reid was elected President of the Senate in August 1996, and presided over business in the Senate for six years. In this prestigious position she was to many the public face of the Senate, who acted as its representative in dealings with the executive government and persons outside Parliament.

Julia Gillard pushed the boundaries for women in politics further still when she became the first female Deputy Prime Minister in 2007 and Prime Minister of Australia in 2010.

One hundred years after Vida Goldstein and others faced a hostile public, press and Parliament, women have overcome most of the obstacles which made their entry to Parliament difficult. According to the Australian Electoral Commission, 143 out of 529 (approximately 27 per cent) nominations for the Senate in the general election of September 2013 were for women.

Speaking at the Women's Constitutional Convention in June 2002, Senator Amanda Vanstone said:

> *One hundred years ago, women got the right to vote and to stand for Parliament … These rights having been fought for by women and men are meant to be used and used not in part but in full. We cannot say that has happened until we have something like 50 per cent representation in federal Parliament. And when we have 50 per cent of the Parliament, we should be aiming for 50 per cent of the Ministry and Shadow Ministry and 50 per cent of the Cabinet.*

*Sarah Hanson-Young became the youngest senator when she was elected to the Senate at the age of 25 in 2007*

# Seven pioneer women in the Senate

Dorothy Tangney, the first woman senator, was elected to the Senate for Western Australia for the Australian Labor Party in August 1943. She was thirty-six years old at the time of her election, and she remained in the Senate for twenty-five years. Although she was conscious that she bore the honour of being the first woman senator, Senator Tangney saw her responsibility as being far more than just the representation of women. In her first speech to the Senate, she said:

> *I ... realise my great honour in being the first woman to be elected to the Senate. But it is not as a woman that I have been elected to this chamber. It is as a citizen of the Commonwealth; and I take my place here with the full privileges and rights of all honourable senators, and ... with the full responsibilities which such a high office entails.*
>
> Commonwealth Parliamentary Debates, 24 September 1943

During her time in the Senate, Senator Tangney was committed to an agenda of social reform which included extending federal government responsibility for social services and instituting Commonwealth assistance in education. In a crucial period between 1943 and 1946, she was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Social Security, which made influential recommendations to the government on such matters as child endowment, invalid pensions, and medical and hospital benefits. She was a champion of the rights of ex-service men and women, deserted wives, civilian and war widows, and the mentally ill. A supporter of the establishment of the Australian National University in Canberra, she was a member of the Council of that University for many years.

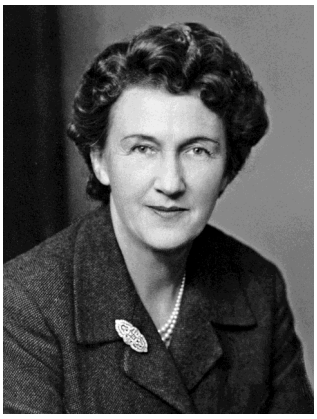
The second woman senator was Annabelle Rankin, Senator for Queensland from 1947 to 1971. Senator Rankin, a member of the Liberal Party, was particularly interested in housing, health and communications issues. In 1947 Senator Rankin was appointed Opposition Whip in the Senate, the first woman in the Parliament to hold a whip's position. She was the Government Whip for fifteen years from 1951. As Minister for Housing she became, in 1966, the first woman responsible for the administration of a government department. After retiring from the Senate in 1971, Dame Annabelle Rankin became Australia's first woman ambassador, when she was appointed High Commissioner to New Zealand.

Women who entered the Senate after Senator Rankin have acknowledged that her strong presence and manifest ability paved the way for a greater acceptance of women in leadership roles by their Senate colleagues and by the public in general.

Ivy Wedgwood represented the state of Victoria in the Senate from 1950 to 1971. She was a foundation member of the Liberal Party. She was the first woman to chair a Senate committee when, in 1968, she was elected Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Medical and Hospital Costs. The developing Senate committee system provided many opportunities for Senator Wedgwood to pursue her interest in and responsibility for social welfare issues. In 1970 she was Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare when it presented a landmark report on mentally and physically handicapped persons in Australia. For more than fifteen years, Senator Wedgwood was a member and sole woman on the powerful Committee of Public Accounts, a joint parliamentary committee with authority to examine the financial affairs of government authorities such as the Audit Office.

Agnes Robertson was elected to the Senate for Western Australia for the first time in 1949, at the age of sixty-eight. She came to the Senate as a representative of the Liberal Party, after formidable experience as a leader of women's political associations in Western Australia. When the Liberal Party declined to re-endorse her for election in 1955 due to her advanced age, she successfully stood for election for the Country Party. She was the first woman to represent the Country Party in the Parliament.

A teacher in Western Australian schools for many years, Senator Robertson spoke frequently in the Senate on the subject of education, and on the health and welfare of children. She was also active in the area of international affairs, and from February 1956 was a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs. She retired from Parliament in 1962 at the age of eighty.



In 1955, Nancy Buttfield, representing the Liberal Party, became the fifth woman to enter the Senate, and the first woman to represent South Australia in the federal Parliament. She was the first woman nominated to fill a casual vacancy in the Senate.

As a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare, she took part in inquiries relating to social services entitlements, ultrasonic aids to the blind and rehabilitation services for the disadvantaged, as well as chairing an inquiry into repatriation. She was also a member of the Senate Select Committee on Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse and a member of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs. Nancy Buttfield served a total of sixteen years in the Senate.

The sixth woman elected to the Senate, Marie Breen was elected as a Liberal Party senator for Victoria and served from 1962 to 1968. In her public speeches, Senator Breen placed considerable emphasis on the importance of family life, as affecting all other areas. She was an active supporter of Australia's role in the provision of economic and humanitarian assistance to developing countries in the region. She chaired the Senate's Printing Committee.

Margaret Guilfoyle entered the Senate to represent Victoria for the Liberal Party in 1971. In a parliamentary career which spanned sixteen years, she served, at various times, as Minister for Education, Minister for Social Security, Minister for Finance, and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Child Care Matters. She took an active interest in a wide range of issues including taxation, Aborigines, social welfare, international affairs, immigration, health and industrial relations. She was a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Government Operations which examined matters relating to repatriation, death duties, income tax, superannuation, Australian foreign aid and all aspects of television broadcasting. Other committee service in which Senator Guilfoyle was engaged included the Senate Select Committee on Foreign Ownership and Control of Australian Enterprises, and the Joint Committee on Public Accounts.

When the Maternity Leave Bill was debated in 1973, Margaret Guilfoyle argued for the extension of maternity leave to all women, not just Commonwealth employees. She was acutely aware of the importance of childcare and the need to provide women with a choice as to how they interpreted their role as parents.

## Achievement of Women's Political Rights
## National Legislatures

| *Country* | *Right to Vote* | *Right to Sit* | *First Woman Elected* |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Zealand | 1893 | 1919 | 1933 |
| Australia | 1902[a]/1962[b] | 1902[a]/1962[b] | 1943 |
| Finland | 1906 | 1906 | 1907 |
| Norway | 1907/1913 | 1907/1913 | 1936 |
| Denmark | 1915 | 1915 | 1918 |
| United Kingdom | 1918/1928 | 1918 | 1918 |
| Germany | 1918 | 1918 | 1919 |
| Czechoslovakia | 1918 | 1918 | 1920 |
| Austria | 1919 | 1919 | 1919 |
| Canada | 1919 | 1919 | 1921 |
| Netherlands | 1919 | 1917 | 1918 |
| United States of America | 1920 | * | 1917 |

a Women from the states of South Australia and Western Australia voted at the first federal election held in 1901 because it was conducted under the electoral laws of the six states. *The Commonwealth Franchise Act 1902* provided for uniform franchise for all persons from the age of twenty-one. Section 4 provided for disqualification of coloured races, unless they were already entitled to vote under state law.

b Aboriginal women and men were not enfranchised on a national basis until 1962.

* The 19th Amendment to the American Constitution gave women the right to vote in every state. In many states, women had been voting and participating in government for years before the passage of the Amendment in 1920, and there was nothing to prevent women from entering Congress before then. Jeanette Rankin entered the House of Representatives in 1917 as the first female member of Congress.

## Achievement of Women's Political Rights

## Australian States

| *States* | *Right to Vote* | *Right to Sit* | *First Woman Elected* |
|---|---|---|---|
| South Australia | 1895 | 1895 | 1959 |
| Western Australia | 1899 | 1920 | 1921 |
| New South Wales | 1902 | 1918 | 1925 |
| Tasmania | 1903 | 1921 | 1948 |
| Queensland | 1905 | 1915 | 1929 |
| Victoria | 1908 | 1923 | 1933 |

## Women in Australian Parliaments

## September 2015

| *Parliament* | *Lower House Women* | *Lower House Total* | *Upper House Women* | *Upper House Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Commonwealth | 40 | 150 | 29 | 76 |
| New South Wales | 28 | 93 | 10 | 42 |
| Victoria | 32 | 88 | 17 | 40 |
| Queensland | 25 | 89 | – | – |
| South Australia | 13 | 47 | 5 | 22 |
| Tasmania | 9 | 25 | 6 | 15 |
| Western Australia | 14 | 59 | 14 | 36 |
| Northern Territory | 11 | 25 | – | – |
| Australian Capital Territory | 7 | 17 | – | – |

## Milestones

**1902** The Commonwealth Franchise Act is passed, enabling all women (with the exception of Aboriginal women in some states) to vote for the federal Parliament. From this time, women are also able to sit in Parliament.

**1903** Four women are candidates for the federal election: Nellie Martel, Mary Ann Moore Bentley and Vida Goldstein for the Senate, and Selina Anderson for the House of Representatives.

**1921** Edith Cowan is elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Western Australian Parliament, thus becoming Australia's first woman parliamentarian.

**1943** Dame Enid Lyons, representing the United Australia Party, and Senator Dorothy Tangney, representing the Australian Labor Party, are elected to the federal Parliament.

**1947** Senator Annabelle Rankin, representing the Liberal Party, becomes Opposition Whip in the Senate, the first woman in the Parliament to hold that office.

**1949** Dame Enid Lyons is the first woman to hold Cabinet rank when she becomes Vice-President of the Executive Council in the Liberal–Country Party coalition ministry of Prime Minister Robert Menzies.

**1951** Senator Annabelle Rankin becomes Government Whip.

**1966** Senator Annabelle Rankin becomes Minister for Housing, and thus the first woman to administer a government department.

**1970** Senator Ivy Wedgwood chairs one of the first of the Senate's new legislative and general purpose standing committees, the Health and Welfare Committee. The Committee's report, concerning an inquiry into handicapped persons in Australia, was the first to be tabled by these influential committees.

**1976** Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, who was appointed Minister for Social Security in 1975, becomes the first woman to be a member of the Cabinet and also administer a government department.

**1983** Senator Susan Ryan is the first Labor woman federal minister. As the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women, Senator Ryan introduces the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984*.

**1986** Mrs Joan Child MP, representing the Australian Labor Party, becomes the first woman to be Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Senator Janine Haines becomes the first woman to lead an Australian political party, the Australian Democrats.

**1990** Carmen Lawrence becomes the first female Premier of an Australian state (Western Australia) in February. Later in the same year, Joan Kirner becomes Premier of Victoria.

Senator Janet Powell becomes the first woman member of either house to have a private bill passed by both houses, the *Smoking and Tobacco Products Advertisements (Prohibition) Act 1989*.

Carolyn Jakobsen MP is elected chair of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party (the caucus), the first woman to hold this position.

**1996** Senator Margaret Reid becomes the first woman elected as President of the Senate.

**2001** Jenny Macklin MP becomes Deputy Leader of the Federal Opposition.

**2007** Julia Gillard MP becomes Deputy Prime Minister.

**2008** Quentin Bryce becomes the first woman appointed Governor-General.

**2010** Julia Gillard MP becomes first female Prime Minister.

## Women in the Australian Senate

| *Name* | *Party* | *State* | *Period of Service* |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Tangney**, Dorothy Margaret | ALP | Western Australia | 1943–68 |
| **Rankin**, the Hon. Annabelle Jane Mary | LP | Queensland | 1947–71 |
| **Robertson**, Agnes Robertson | LP; CP | Western Australia | 1950–55; 1955–62 |
| **Wedgwood**, Ivy Evelyn | LP | Victoria | 1950–71 |
| **Buttfield**, Nancy Eileen | LP | South Australia | 1955–65; 1968–74 |
| **Breen**, Marie Freda | LP | Victoria | 1962–68 |
| **Guilfoyle**, the Hon. Margaret Georgina Constance | LP | Victoria | 1971–87 |
| **Coleman**, Ruth Nancy | ALP | Western Australia | 1974–87 |
| **Martin** (later **Sullivan**), Kathryn Jean* | LP | Queensland | 1974–84 |
| **Melzer**, Jean Isobelle | ALP | Victoria | 1974–81 |
| **Ryan**, the Hon. Susan Maree | ALP | Australian Capital Territory | 1975–88 |
| **Walters**, (Mary) Shirley | LP | Tasmania | 1975–93 |
| **Haines**, Janine | AD | South Australia | 1977–78; 1981–90 |
| **Hearn**, Jean Margaret | ALP | Tasmania | 1980–85 |
| **Bjelke-Petersen**, Florence Isabel | NCP; NPA | Queensland | 1981–93 |
| **Giles**, Patricia Jessie | ALP | Western Australia | 1981–93 |
| **Reid**, the Hon. Margaret Elizabeth | LP | Australian Capital Territory | 1981–2003 |
| **Crowley**, the Hon. Rosemary Anne | ALP | South Australia | 1983–2002 |
| **Reynolds**, the Hon. Margaret | ALP | Queensland | 1983–1999 |
| **Zakharov**, (Alice) Olive | ALP | Victoria | 1983–1995 |
| **Knowles**, Susan Christine | LP | Western Australia | 1984–2005 |
| **Vanstone**, the Hon. Amanda Eloise | LP | South Australia | 1984–2007 |
| **Vallentine**, Josephine | IND; GWA; NDP | Western Australia | 1985–1992 |
| **Newman**, the Hon. Jocelyn Margaret | LP | Tasmania | 1986–2002 |
| **Powell**, Janet Frances | AD; IND | Victoria | 1986–1993 |
| **Bishop**, the Hon. Bronwyn Kathleen* | LP | New South Wales | 1987–1994 |
| **Jenkins**, Jean Alice | AD | Western Australia | 1987–1990 |
| **Patterson**, the Hon. Kay Christine | LP | Victoria | 1987–2008 |
| **West**, Suzanne Margaret | ALP | New South Wales | 1987; 1990–2002 |
| **Dunn**, Patricia Irene (Irina) | NDP; IND | New South Wales | 1988; 1988–1990 |
| **Bourne**, Vicki Worrall | AD | New South Wales | 1990–2002 |
| **Kernot**, Cheryl* | AD | Queensland | 1990–1997 |
| **Lees**, Meg Heather | AD; IND; APA | South Australia | 1990–2005 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sowada**, Karin Nicole | AD | New South Wales | 1991–1993 |
| **Chamarette**, Christabel Marguerite Alain | GWA | Western Australia | 1992–1996 |
| **Margetts,** Diane Elizabeth (Dee) | GWA | Western Australia | 1993–1999 |
| **Troeth**, the Hon. Judith Mary | LP | Victoria | 1993–2011 |
| **Denman,** Kay Janet | ALP | Tasmania | 1993–2005 |
| **Neal**, Belinda Jane* | ALP | New South Wales | 1994–1998 |
| **Collins**, Jacinta Mary Ann | ALP | Victoria | 1995–2005, from 2008 |
| **Stott Despoja**, Natasha Jessica | AD | South Australia | 1995–2008 |
| **Mackay**, Susan Mary | ALP | Tasmania | 1996–2005 |
| **Lundy**, Kate Alexandra | ALP | Australian Capital Territory | 1996–2015 |
| **Allison**, Lynette Fay | AD | Victoria | 1996–2008 |
| **Coonan**, the Hon. Helen Lloyd | LP | New South Wales | 1996–2011 |
| **Ferris**, Jeannie Margaret | LP | South Australia | 1996–2007 |
| **Gibbs**, Brenda | ALP | Queensland | 1996–2002 |
| **Payne**, Marise Ann | LP | New South Wales | from 1997 |
| **Synon**, Karen Margaret | LP | Victoria | 1997–1999 |
| **Crossin**, Patricia Margaret | ALP | Northern Territory | 1998–2013 |
| **McLucas**, the Hon. Jan Elizabeth | ALP | Queensland | from 1999 |
| **Kirk**, Linda Jean | ALP | South Australia | 2002–2008 |
| **Moore**, Claire Mary | ALP | Queensland | from 2002 |
| **Nettle**, Kerry Michelle | AG | New South Wales | 2002–2008 |
| **Stephens**, the Hon. Ursula Mary | ALP | New South Wales | 2002–2014 |
| **Webber**, Ruth Stephanie | ALP | Western Australia | 2002–2008 |
| **Wong**, the Hon. Penny Ying Yen | ALP | South Australia | from 2002 |
| **Adams**, Judith Anne | LP | Western Australia | 2005–2012 |
| **Brown**, Carol Louise | ALP | Tasmania | from 2005 |
| **Fierravanti-Wells**, Concetta Anna | LP | New South Wales | from 2005 |
| **Hurley**, Annette Kay | ALP | South Australia | 2005–2011 |
| **McEwen**, Anne | ALP | South Australia | from 2005 |
| **Milne**, Christine Anne | AG | Tasmania | 2005–2015 |
| **Nash**, Fiona Joy | NATS | New South Wales | from 2005 |
| **Polley**, Helen Beatrice | ALP | Tasmania | from 2005 |
| **Siewert**, Rachel Mary | AG | Western Australia | from 2005 |
| **Wortley**, Dana Johanna | ALP | South Australia | 2005–2011 |
| **Boyce**, Suzanne Kay | LP | Queensland | 2007–2014 |
| **Fisher**, Mary Jo | LP | South Australia | 2007–2012 |
| **Bilyk**, Catryna Louise | ALP | Tasmania | from 2008 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cash**, Michaelia Clare | LP | Western Australia | from 2008 |
| **Hanson-Young**, Sarah Coral | AG | South Australia | from 2008 |
| **Kroger**, Helen Evelyn | LP | Victoria | 2008–2014 |
| **Pratt**, Louise Clare | ALP | Western Australia | 2008–2014 |
| **McKenzie**, Bridget | NATS | Victoria | from 2011 |
| **Rhiannon**, Lee | AG | New South Wales | from 2011 |
| **Singh,** Lisa Maria | ALP | Tasmania | from 2011 |
| **Urquhart**, Anne Elizabeth | ALP | Tasmania | from 2011 |
| **Waters**, Larissa Joy | AG | Queensland | from 2011 |
| **Wright**, Penelope Lesley | AG | South Australia | 2011–2015 |
| **Thorp**, Lin Estelle | ALP | Tasmania | 2012–2014 |
| **Ruston**, Anne Sowerby | LP | South Australia | from 2012 |
| **Lines**, Susan | ALP | Western Australia | from 2013 |
| **Peris**, Nova Maree | ALP | Northern Territory | from 2013 |
| **O'Neill**, Deborah* | ALP | New South Wales | from 2013 |
| **Lambie**, Jacqui | PUP; IND | Tasmania | from 2014 |
| **Reynolds**, Linda Karen | LP | Western Australia | from 2014 |
| **Rice**, Janet Elizabeth | AG | Victoria | from 2014 |
| **Gallagher**, Katy | ALP | Australian Capital Territory | from 2015 |
| **McAllister**, Jenny | ALP | New South Wales | from 2015 |
| **Lindgren**, Joanna | LIB | Queensland | from 2015 |

* Also served in the House of Representatives

AD—Australian Democrats
ALP—Australian Labor Party
CP—Country Party
IND—Independent
LP—Liberal Party of Australia
NCP—National Country Party
NPA—National Party of Australia
AG—Australian Greens
APA—Australian Progressive Alliance
GWA—The Greens (WA)
IND LAB—Independent Labor
NATS—The Nationals
NDP—Nuclear Disarmament Party
PUP—Palmer United Party

## Further reading

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