



Women in Parliament

Fact Sheet 8

(as at 22 May 2009)

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Western Australian Female Firsts

Australia's first female Member of Parliament

Edith Cowan (Nationalist) was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly on 12 March 1921. She represented the West Perth electorate. She was the second female member of any parliament in the British Empire.

First female Member of Western Australian Legislative Assembly

Edith Cowan (Nationalist) was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly on 12 March 1921. She represented the West Perth electorate.

Australia's first female Member of Parliament representing the ALP

May Holman was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly at a by-election on 3 April 1925 following the death of her father. She represented the Forrest Division until her tragic death on 20 March 1939. At this time she had just been re-elected for a fifth term. In the by-election that followed her brother Edward became the third successive member of her family to represent the seat of Forrest.

Australia's first female Member of Parliament to serve ten years in Parliament

May Holman (ALP) was the first female Australian Member of Parliament to hold a parliamentary seat for ten years, 3 April 1925-1935. She was also the first female in the British Empire to do so.

Australia's first female Member of Parliament to be suspended from Parliament

Florence Cardell-Oliver (Nationalist) became the first woman Member of Parliament to be suspended from 'the service of the House' on 10 December 1941 (PD, 10 December 1941, p.2595). She described the speech made by one of her own party colleagues as a 'disgrace to the Assembly'. She then refused all requests for her to withdraw her remarks.

Australia's first female Senator

Dorothy Tangney (ALP) became Australia's first female Senator on 22 September 1949. She retained her seat and was the only female Senator for a record twenty five years. She holds the honour of being the first woman appointed to a parliamentary committee in the Commonwealth Parliament, the first Commonwealth woman to represent Australia on an overseas delegation, to preside over the Senate and take the Chair in any of the English speaking Parliaments. She also has the distinction of being the first Western Australian born female to be made a Dame Commander of the British Empire - and for ten years, the only one.

Australia's first female Cabinet Minister

Florence Cardell-Oliver (Nationalist) became Australia's first female Cabinet Minister on 7 October 1949 when she became the Western Australian Minister for Health, Supply and Shipping. Previous to this, she had served as Honorary Minister (from 1 April 1947).

First female Member of Western Australian Legislative Council

Ruby Hutchinson (ALP) was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council on 22 May 1954. She represented the Suburban Province. She was the first woman to take her place in any Australian Council. During her seventeen years of service she was the only woman to serve in that chamber.

Australia's first woman Member of Parliament to serve concurrently with her husband

Ruby Hutchinson (ALP) was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council for a term commencing 22 May 1954. She represented the Suburban Province. In 1965 she was elected for the North-East Metropolitan Province. When she married Mr. Frederick Richard Hugh Lavery MLC on 14 May 1966 she became the first female in Australia to serve concurrently with her husband.

Western Australia's first female Member of Parliament to represent the Liberal Party

Margaret McAleer was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council for a term commencing 22 May 1974. She was one of two members to represent the Upper West Province. She went on to become Government Whip in 1980, and continued in the role of Opposition Whip until her retirement in 1993. She also assisted as shadow Minister for Women's Interests and served on a number of parliamentary committees.

Western Australia's first female Member of Parliament to represent the National Party

Winifred Piesse was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council for a term commencing 22 May 1977. She represented the Lower Central Province. She was the first female Member of the Western Australian Parliament to represent the National Party (or National Country Party).

Western Australia's first female Member of the House of Representatives

Wendy Fatin (ALP) was elected to the House of Representatives in 1983. She represented the Brand electorate. She also has the honour of being the first woman from WA to become a Minister, when she was sworn in as the Minister for Local Government from 4 April 1990.

First female Member of Western Australian Parliament to serve in both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council

Kay Hallahan (ALP) was first elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council for a term commencing 22 May 1983, representing the South East Metropolitan Region. She was later elected to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly representing the Armadale electorate.

She served from 6 February 1993 until retiring at the 1996 state election.

First Labor female to hold a ministerial post

Kay Hallahan (ALP) and *Pam Beggs* (ALP) share the honour of being the first Labor females selected for a cabinet posting on 26 February 1986. Kay Hallahan (ALP) is also the first female Member of the Legislative Council to hold a ministerial post.

First female Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Kay Hallahan (ALP) on 16 March 1987 became the first female to hold the position of Deputy Leader of a party in the Legislative Council.

First female to chair a Select Committee in the Western Australian Parliament

Beryl Jones (ALP) was the first woman to chair a Select Committee in either house of Parliament. She chaired the Legislative Council's Select Committee into Charitable Collections from 28 April 1987.

First female in the Western Australia to give birth while a member of Cabinet

In 1988 *Yvonne Henderson* (ALP) became the first woman in Western Australia to give birth while serving as a member of Cabinet. She was the Minister for Lands and the Arts.

First female to chair a Select Committee in the Legislative Assembly

On the 15 November 1988 *Judyth Watson* (ALP) became the first woman to chair a Select Committee in the Legislative Assembly. She was appointed chair of the Select Committee on the Reproductive Technology Working Party's Report.

First female elected to the Western Australian Parliament with a doctorate

Judyth Watson (ALP) and *Carmen Lawrence* (ALP) share the distinction of being the first women elected to the Western Australian Parliament with a Doctorate of Philosophy. They both graduated from the University of Western Australia.

Western Australia's first female Member of Parliament to represent the National Party in the Legislative Assembly

When *Dr Hilda Turnbull* was elected to Legislative Assembly seat of Collie on *4 February 1989* she became the first female to represent the National Party (Country Party) in the Legislative Assembly.

Australia's first female Premier

Carmen Lawrence (ALP) became Australia's first female Premier on *12 February 1990*. She was elected in 1986 as the Member for Subiaco and in 1989 as the Member for Glendalough. She served as Premier until 1993 when the ALP was defeated in the state election.

First female Independent to be elected to the Western Australian Parliament

When *Dr Elizabeth Constable* won the by-election for Floreat in *July 1991*, she became the first female to be elected to the Western Australian Parliament without party endorsement.

First female Leader of the Opposition in Western Australia

Having served as Premier, *Carmen Lawrence* (ALP) became Western Australia's first female Leader of the Opposition in 1993 when the ALP was defeated in the state election. She served as Leader until resigning in February 1994 to take up office as the Member of the House of Representatives for Fremantle on 12 March 1994.

First female Attorney General

When *Cheryl Edwardes* (Lib) became Attorney General on *8 March 1993*, she became the first female Attorney General in Western Australia.

First female Deputy Leader of a political party in Western Australia

On *7 February 1994* *Kay Hallahan* (ALP) again made history when she became the first female to hold the position of Deputy Leader of the State Parliamentary Opposition.

Australia's first female Member of Parliament and Minister to serve in both a State and Federal Parliament

Carmen Lawrence (ALP) was first elected to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly in 1986 as the Member for Subiaco and in 1989 as the Member for Glendalough. She was then elected to the House of Representatives on *12 March 1994*, representing the federal seat of Fremantle. She is the third West Australian, after Lord Forrest and Hon. Joe Berinson to serve in both a State and Federal Parliament.

First female Member of Western Australian Parliament born in a non-English speaking country

Born in Split in Croatia *Ljiljana Ravlich* (ALP) was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council for a term commencing *22 May 1997*. She was the first female Member of Western Australian Parliament born in a non-English speaking country. She represents the East Metropolitan region.

Western Australia's first female Member of Parliament to represent the Democrats

Helen Hodgson was elected to the Legislative Council representing the North Metropolitan Region for a term commencing *22 May 1997*. As leader of the Democrats she became the first female parliamentary party leader in WA.

Western Australia's first female Member of Parliament to represent the Greens

Christine Sharp and *Giz Watson* were elected to the Legislative Council for a term commencing *22 May 1997*. Christine Sharp represents the South West region and Giz Watson represents the North Metropolitan region.

First female to chair a Standing Committee in the Western Australian Parliament

When *Dr Christine (Chrissy) Sharp* (GWA) was chosen to chair the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development on *26 June 1997*, she became the first woman to chair a Standing Committee in the Western Australian Parliament.

First openly declared lesbian Member of Parliament in Australia

Giz Watson (GWA) was elected to the Legislative Council representing the North Metropolitan Region for a term commencing 22 May 1997. In her inaugural speech (PD, 10 June 1997, p.3534), Giz touched on her commitment to representing the lesbian and gay community as the first openly declared lesbian parliamentarian in Australia.

Youngest woman ever elected to the Western Australian Parliament

Jaye Radisich (ALP) is the youngest woman ever elected to the Western Australian Parliament. When she was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly on 10 February 2001 as the Member for Swan Hills, she was 24 years, 10 months and 11 days old.

First female Indigenous Member of an Australian Parliament

When *Carol Martin* (ALP) was elected to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly on 10 February 2001 she made history by becoming the first indigenous Member of the Western Australian Parliament and indeed any Australian Parliament. She represents the Kimberley electorate.

Youngest women elected to the Western Australian legislative Council

Louise Pratt was the youngest female elected to the Legislative Council for East Metropolitan Region on 10 February 2001, 2005 (for term commencing 22 May 2001). She Resigned 29 October 2007 to contest the 24 November 2007 Federal Election, being elected to the Australian Senate representing Western Australia

First female to be elected to the Australian Senate and Western Australian legislative Council

Diane (Dee) Margetts was the first female Member to be elected to both the Australian Senate for the Greens on 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1999 (defeated) and the Legislative Council of Western Australia on 10 February 2001 (term commencing 22 May 2001) to 26 February 2005 (term concluded 21 May 2005) (defeated).

First female Independent Member to become a Cabinet Minister

Dr Elizabeth Constable is the first female Independent Member to become a Cabinet Minister responsible for Education, Tourism and Women's Interests in the 2008 Barnett Liberal minority Government.

Youngest woman minister in the Parliament of Western Australia

Donna Evelyn Mary Faragher MLC, Member for East Metropolitan became the youngest female minister when she was appointed Minister for the Environment and Minister for Youth on 23 September 2008 in the 2008 Liberal, Nationals Government, she was 34 years.

First Greens (WA) Member of the Legislative Assembly

Adele Carles (GreensWA) made history on 16 May 2009 when she was elected as the Member for Fremantle at the by-election consequent upon the retirement of Jim McGinty (ALP). This was the first time a lower house seat had been held by the GreensWA. Ms Carles' election also signified the first time that the GreensWA were afforded party status having five elected members in the Parliament.

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Then and Now: Women in the WA Parliament 1921-

Name	House	Party	Electorate	Period of Service
Edith Dircksey Cowan	MLA	Nat	West Perth	12 Mar 1921 - 22 Mar 1924
Mary Alice (May) Holman	MLA	ALP	Forrest	03 Apr 1925 - 20 Mar 1939
Florence Gillies Cardell-Oliver	MLA	Nat/Lib	Subiaco	15 Feb 1936 - 07 Apr 1956
Ruby Florence Hutchison	MLC	ALP	Suburban North Metro Province	22 May 1954 - 21 May 1965 22 May 1965 - 21 May 1971
Lyla Daphne Elliott	MLC	ALP	NE Metropolitan	22 May 1971 - 21 May 1983 22 May 1983 - 21 May 1986
Margaret June Craig	MLA	Lib	Wellington	30 Mar 1974 - 19 Feb 1983
Margaret McAleer	MLC	Lib	Upper West Agricultural	22 May 1974 - 21 May 1989 22 May 1989 - 21 May 1993
Grace Sydney Vaughan	MLC	ALP	SE Metropolitan	22 May 1974 - 21 May 1980
Winifred Margaret Piesse	MLC	NCP	Lower Central	22 May 1977 - 21 May 1983
Pamela Anne Beggs	MLA	ALP	Whitford	19 Feb 1983 - 06 Feb 1993
Pamela Ann Buchanan	MLA	ALP	Pilbara Ashburton	19 Feb 1983 - 04 Feb 1989 04 Feb 1989 - 03 Mar 1992
Elsie Kay Hallahan	MLC MLA	ALP	SE Metropolitan East Metropolitan Armadale	22 May 1983 - 21 May 1989 22 May 1989 - 13 Jan 1993 06 Feb 1993 - 14 Dec 1996
Yvonne Daphne Henderson	MLA	ALP	Gosnells Thornlie	19 Feb 1983 - 04 Feb 1989 04 Feb 1989 - 14 Dec 1996
Jacqueline Patricia Watkins	MLA	ALP	Joondalup Wanneroo	19 Feb 1983 - 04 Feb 1989 04 Feb 1989 - 06 Feb 1993
Dr Carmen Mary Lawrence	MLA	ALP	Subiaco Glendalough	08 Feb 1986 - 04 Feb 1989 04 Feb 1989 - 14 Feb 1994
Beryl Lillian Jones	MLC	ALP	Lower West South West	22 May 1986 - 21 May 1989 22 May 1989 - 21 May 1993
Dr Judyth Watson	MLA	ALP	Canning Kenwick	08 Feb 1986 - 04 Feb 1989 04 Feb 1989 - 14 Dec 1996
Cheryl May Davenport	MLC	ALP	South Metropolitan	22 May 1989 - 21 May 2001
Cheryl Lynn Edwardes	MLA	Lib	Kingsley	04 Feb 1989 - 26 Feb 2005
Muriel Grace Patterson	MLC	Lib	South West	22 May 1989 - 21 May 2001
Dr Hilda Margaret Turnbull	MLA	NP	Collie	04 Feb 1989 - 10 Feb 2001
Dr Judith (Judy) Mary Edwards	MLA	ALP	Maylands	26 May 1990 - 6 Sept 2008
Dr Elizabeth Constable	MLA	Lib Ind	Floreat Churchlands	20 Jul 1991 - 14 Dec 1996 14 Dec 1996 -
Diane Phyllis Airey	MLC	Lib	South Metropolitan	02 Feb 1993 - 21 May 1993
Valma Eileen Ferguson	MLC	ALP	East Metropolitan	02 Feb 1993 - 21 May 1993 04 April 1995 - 21 May 1997
Elsie Kay Hallahan	MLA	ALP	Armadale	06 Feb 1993 - 14 Dec 1996
Alannah Joan Geraldine MacTiernan	MLC MLA	ALP	East Metropolitan Armadale	22 May 1993 - 21 Nov 1996 14 Dec 1996 -

Name	House	Party	Electorate	Period of Service
Barbara Mary Scott	MLC	Lib	South Metropolitan	22 May 1993 - 21 May 2009
Diana Muriel Warnock	MLA	ALP	Perth	06 Feb 1993 - 10 Feb 2001
June Dorothy van de Klashorst	MLA	Lib	Swan Hills	06 Feb 1993 - 10 Feb 2001
Michelle Hopkins Roberts	MLA	ALP	Glendalough Midland	19 Mar 1994 - 14 Dec 1996 14 Dec 1996 -
Rhonda Kathleen Parker	MLA	Lib	Helena Ballajura	10 Sep 1994 - 14 Dec 1996 14 Dec 1996 - 10 Feb 2001
Megan Irene Anwyl	MLA	ALP	Kalgoorlie	16 Mar 1996 - 10 Feb 2001
Katina (Katie) Hodson-Thomas	MLA	Lib	Carine	14 Dec 1996 -
Sheila Margaret McHale	MLA	ALP	Thornlie Kenwick	14 Dec 1996 - 26 Feb 2005 26 Feb 2005 - 6 Sept 2008
Ljiljanna Maria Ravlich	MLC	ALP	East Metropolitan	22 May 1996 -
Monica Rose Holmes	MLA		Southern River	14 Dec 1996 - 10 Feb 2001
Helen Margaret Hodgson	MLC	AD	North Metropolitan	22 May 1997 - 21 May 2001
Dr Christine (Chrissy) Sharp	MLC	GWA	South West	22 May 1997 - 21 May 2005
Giz Watson	MLC	GWA	North Metropolitan	22 May 1997 -
Dianne Joy Guise	MLA	ALP	Wanneroo	10 Feb 2001 - 6 Sept 2008
Carol Anne Martin	MLA	ALP	Kimberley	10 Feb 2001 -
Margaret Mary Quirk	MLA	ALP	Girrawheen	10 Feb 2001 -
Dr Janet May Woollard	MLA	Ind	Alfred Cove	10 Feb 2001 -
Catherine (Kate) Esther Doust	MLC	ALP	South Metropolitan	22 May 2001 -
Suzanne (Sue) Mary Ellery	MLC	ALP	South Metropolitan	22 May 2001 -
Adele Farina	MLC	ALP	South West	22 May 2001 -
Robyn Mary McSweeney	MLC	Lib	South West	22 May 2001 -
Jaye Amber Radisich	MLA	ALP	Swan Hills	10 Feb 2001 - 6 Sept 2008
Diane (Dee) Elizabeth Margetts	MLC	GWA	Agricultural	22 May 2001 - 21 May 2005
Louise Clare Pratt	MLC	ALP	East Metropolitan	22 May 2001 - 29 Oct 2007
Susan (Sue) Walker	MLA	Lib	Nedlands	09 June 2001 - 6 Sept 2008
Judith (Judy) Hughes	MLA	ALP	Kingsley	26 Feb 2005 - 6 Sept 2008
Lynn Ellen MacLaren	MLC	GWA	South Metropolitan	15 Feb 2005 - 21 May 2005 22 May 2009 -
Shelley Frances Archer	MLC	Ind	Mining and Pastoral	22 May 2005 - 22 May 2009
Donna Evelyn Mary Faragher	MLC	Lib	East Metropolitan	22 May 2005 -
Sheila Mills	MLC	ALP	South Metropolitan	22 May 2005 - 22 May 2009
Helen Margaret Morton	MLC	Lib	East Metropolitan	22 May 2005 -
Margaret Bernadette Rowe	MLC	Lib	Agricultural	22 May 2005 - 22 June 2007
Sally Elizabeth Talbot	MLC	ALP	South West Region	22 May 2005 -
Wendy Maxine Duncan	MLC	Nat	Agricultural	29 Jan 2008 -
Lisa Loraine Baker	MLA	ALP	Maylands	6 Sept 2008 -
Janine Marie Freeman	MLA	ALP	Nollamara	6 Sept 2008 -
Liza Mary Harvey	MLA	Lib	Scarborough	6 Sept 2008 -
Andrea Ruth Mitchell	MLA	Lib	Kingsley	6 Sept 2008 -
Rita Saffioti	MLA	ALP	West Swan	6 Sept 2008 -
Carolyn Burton	MLC	ALP	North Metropolitan	17 Sept 2008 - 21 May 2009

Name	House	Party	Electorate	Period of Service
Shelley Elizabeth Eaton	MLC	ALP	Mining & Pastoral	17 Sept 2008 - 21 May 2009
Adele Carles	MLA	GWA	Fremantle	16 May 2009 -
Elizabeth (Liz) Lloyd Behjat	MLC	Lib	North Metropolitan	22 May 2009 -
Helen Bullock	MLC	ALP	Mining & Pastoral	22 May 2009 -
Mia Davies	MLC	Nat	Agricultural	22 May 2009 -
Alyssa Hayden	MLC	Lib	East Metropolitan	22 May 2009 -
Alison Marie Xamon	MLC	GWA	East Metropolitan	22 May 2009 -

Entries in **bold** indicate a sitting member.

Number of Women in the Western Australian Parliament

Parliament	Legislative Assembly	Legislative Council	Total	Total Seats	% Female
11th Parliament (July 1921 - Jan 1924)	1 ¹	-	1	80	1.25
12th Parliament (July 1924 - Jan 1927)	1 ²	-	1	80	1.25
13th Parliament (July 1927 - Jan 1930)	1	-	1	80	1.25
14th Parliament (July 1930 - Jan 1933)	1	-	1	80	1.25
15th Parliament (July 1933 - Jan 1936)	1	-	1	80	1.25
16th Parliament (Aug 1936 - Jan 1939)	2 ³	-	2	80	2.5
17th Parliament (Aug 1939 - Oct 1943)	1 ⁴	-	1	80	1.25
18th Parliament (July 1944 - Jan 1947)	1	-	1	80	1.25
19th Parliament (July 1947 - Jan 1950)	1	-	1	80	1.25
20th Parliament (July 1950 - Jan 1953)	1	-	1	80	1.25
21st Parliament (Aug 1953 - Jan 1956)	1	1 ⁵	2	80	2.5
22nd Parliament (Aug 1956 - Jan 1959)	-	1	1 ⁶	80	1.25
23rd Parliament (Jun 1959 - Jan 1962)	-	1	1	80	1.25
24th Parliament (July 1962 - Jan 1965)	-	1	1	80	1.25
25th Parliament (July 1965 - Jan 1968)	-	1	1	81	1.23
26th Parliament (July 1968 - Jan 1971)	-	1	1	81	1.23
27th Parliament (July 1971 - Jan 1974)	-	1 ⁷	1	81	1.23
28th Parliament (May 1974 - Jan 1977)	1	3	4 ⁸	87	4.6

¹ Edith Cowan (Nat) elected, becoming Australia's first woman member of Parliament. She contested West Perth in 1924 and 1927, without success.

² May Holman (ALP) elected at a by-election on 3 April 1925, due to the death of her father who held the seat previously. She held the seat until her death in March 1939, after just having been re-elected for a fifth term.

³ Dame Annie Cardell-Oliver (Nat) elected, serving until April 1956.

⁴ May Holman (ALP) died just after being re-elected. The seat was won by her brother, thus reducing number of woman members back to one.

⁵ Ruby Hutchison (ALP) elected the first female member of the Legislative Council, and remained the only woman MLC throughout her seventeen year term.

⁶ With Dame Annie Cardell-Oliver's (Nat) term ending in April 1956, Ruby Hutchison (ALP) was the only woman member of Parliament until her term ended in May 1971.

⁷ Lyla Elliott (ALP) elected in May 1971, becoming the sole woman member in the Legislative Council.

⁸ Margaret Craig (Lib), Margaret McAleer (Lib) and Grace Vaughan (ALP) elected.

Parliament	Legislative Assembly	Legislative Council	Total	Total Seats	% Female
29th Parliament (May 1977 - Jan 1980)	1	4 ⁹	5	87	5.75
30th Parliament (July 1980 - Jan 1983)	1	3 ¹⁰	4	91	4.40
31st Parliament (Mar 1983 - Dec 1985)	4 ¹¹	3 ¹²	7	91	7.69
32nd Parliament (Jun 1986 - Jan 1989)	6 ¹³	3 ¹⁴	9	91	9.89
33rd Parliament (Mar 1989 - April 1990)	8 ¹⁵	5 ¹⁶	13	91	14.29
33rd Parliament (from May 1990)	9 ¹⁷	5	14	91	15.38
33rd Parliament (from July 1991)	10 ¹⁸	5	15	91	16.48
34th Parliament (Jun 1993 - Nov 1996)	10 ¹⁹	6 ²⁰	16	91	17.58
34th Parliament (from May 1993)	10	4 ²¹	14	91	15.38
34th Parliament (from September 1994)	11 ²²	4	15	91	16.48
34th Parliament (from February 1995)	11	5 ²³	16	91	17.58
34th Parliament (from March 1996)	12 ²⁴	5	17	91	18.68

⁹ Winifred Piesse (NCP) elected and served until May 1983.

¹⁰ Grace Vaughan (ALP) lost her seat in 1980, thus reducing the number of female members of the Legislative Council to three.

¹¹ Pamela Beggs (ALP), Pamela Buchanan (ALP), Yvonne Henderson (ALP) and Jacqueline Watkins (ALP) elected. Margaret Craig (Lib) defeated in the new seat of Mitchell, having lost her seat in a re-distribution.

¹² Kay Hallahan (ALP) elected a member of the Legislative Council, Winifred Piesse (NCP) failed by 400 votes to be re-elected and the status quo remained.

¹³ Carmen Lawrence (ALP) and Judyth Watson (ALP) elected.

¹⁴ Beryl Jones (ALP) elected, Lyla Elliott (ALP) did not re-nominate.

¹⁵ Cheryl Edwardes (Lib) and Hilda Turnbull (Nat) elected, bringing party political diversity to women members of the Legislative Assembly.

¹⁶ Cheryl Davenport (ALP) and Muriel Patterson (Lib) elected.

¹⁷ Judy Edwards (ALP) won the by-election for the seat of Maylands on 26 May 1990, caused by resignation of Premier Peter Dowding.

¹⁸ Elizabeth Constable was the first woman elected as an Independent without any party endorsement. She was elected at a by-election on 20 July 1991 for the seat of Floreat, the vacancy caused by the death of Andrew Mensaros.

¹⁹ Kay Hallahan (ALP), Diana Warnock (ALP) and June van de Klashorst (Lib) elected. Pamela Beggs (ALP) and Jacqueline Watkins (ALP) defeated. Pamela Buchanan (ALP) resigned in March 1992 due to ill health.

²⁰ Kay Hallahan (ALP) resigned in January 1993 to successfully contest the Legislative Assembly seat of Armadale. Valma Ferguson (ALP) served out the remainder of Hallahan's term in the Legislative Council until 21 May 1993. Diane Airey (Lib) served out the remainder of Philip Pandal's term until May 1993, after he also resigned just prior to the 1993 elections to successfully contest the Legislative Assembly seat of South Perth.

²¹ Alannah MacTiernan (ALP) and Barbara Scott (Lib) elected. Margaret McAleer (Lib) retired and Beryl Jones' (ALP) term ended. Valma Ferguson (ALP) was unsuccessful in gaining a further term in 1993 and Diane Airey did not contest any parliamentary seat in 1993, or thereafter.

²² Michelle Roberts (ALP) won the seat of Glendalough at a by-election on 19 March 1994 caused by Carmen Lawrence (ALP) vacating the seat to enter federal politics, later becoming Federal MHR for Fremantle in March 1994. The overall tally did not change until the election of Rhonda Parker (Lib) in a by-election for the seat of Helena on 26 September 1994.

²³ Valma Ferguson (ALP) re-entered State Parliament on 4 April 1995 to again fill a casual vacancy caused by the resignation of ALP State President Tom Butler, serving until the end of the term on 21 May 1997.

²⁴ Megan Anwyl (ALP) won by-election for seat of Kalgoorlie on 16 March 1996 caused by Ian Taylor vacating the seat. She was re-elected in the state general election in late 1996.

Parliament	Legislative Assembly	Legislative Council	Total	Total Seats	% Female
35th Parliament (Mar 1997 - Nov 2001)	13 ²⁵	4 ²⁶	17	91	18.68
35th Parliament (from May 1997)	13	7 ²⁷	20	91	21.98
36th Parliament (1 May 2001 - 25 Feb 2001)	12 ²⁸	7	19	91	20.88
36th Parliament (from 22 May 2001)	12	10 ²⁹	22	91	24.17
36th Parliament (from 9 June 2001)	13 ³⁰	10	23	91	25.27
36th Parliament (from 15 February 2005)	13	11 ³¹	24	91	26.37
37th Parliament (26 February 2005)	13 ³²	14 ³³	27	91	29.67
37th Parliament (From 22 June 2007)	13	13 ³⁴	26	91	28.57
37th Parliament (From 29 October 2007)	13	12 ³⁵	25	91	27.47

²⁵ Katie Hodson-Thomas (Lib), Monica Holmes (Lib), Sheila McHale (ALP) and Alannah MacTiernan (ALP) elected. Judyth Watson (ALP) unsuccessfully contested the seat of Southern River, Yvonne Henderson (ALP) did not contest and Kay Hallahan (ALP) retired.

²⁶ Alannah MacTiernan (ALP) resigned to successfully contest the Legislative Assembly seat of Armadale.

²⁷ Helen Hodgson (Dem), Ljiljanna Ravlich (ALP), Christine Sharp (GWA), and Giz Watson (GWA) elected. Valma Ferguson's (ALP) term ended on 21 May 1997.

²⁸ Dianne Guise (ALP), Carol Martin (ALP), Margaret Quirk (ALP), Jaye Radisich (ALP) and Dr Janet Woollard (Ind) elected. Hilda Turnbull (Nat), June van de Klashorst (Lib), Rhonda Parker (Lib), Megan Anwyl (ALP) and Monica Holmes (Lib) were unsuccessful in retaining their seats. Diana Warnock (ALP) did not contest.

²⁹ Helen Hodgson (Dem) defeated, Cheryl Davenport (ALP) and Muriel Patterson (Lib) did not contest their seats. Kate Doust (ALP), Sue Ellery (ALP), Adele Farina (ALP), Robyn McSweeney (ALP), Dee Margetts (GWA) and Louise Pratt (ALP) elected.

³⁰ Sue Walker (Lib) elected MLA for Nedlands at the by-election on 9 June 2001, caused by the resignation of Richard Court.

³¹ Lynn MacLaren elected for the South Metropolitan Region on 15 February 2005 to fill casual vacancy to 22 May 2005 caused by the resignation of Jim Scott who unsuccessfully contested the seat of Fremantle in the Legislative Assembly.

³² Cheryl Edwardes (Lib) retired. Judith Hughes (ALP) elected to the seat of Kingsley.

³³ Christine Sharp (GWA) did not contest a seat, Dee Margetts (GWA) and Lynn MacLaren (GWA) were defeated. Shelley Archer (ALP), Sheila Mills (ALP), Helen Morton (Lib), Margaret Rowe (Lib), Sally Talbot (ALP) and Donna Taylor (Lib) elected.

³⁴ On 22 June 2007 Margaret Rowe (Lib) resigned from the Legislative Council due to ill health. Brian Ellis (Lib) elected to fill the vacancy caused by her resignation.

³⁵ Louise Pratt (ALP) resigned on 29 October 2007 to contest a seat in the Australian Senate. Bantong Vu Pham (ALP) elected to fill the vacancy caused by her resignation.

³⁶ Wendy Duncan (Nat) was elected to Legislative Council on 29 January 2008 to fill a vacancy consequent upon the resignation of Hon Murray Criddle.

³⁷ Dr Judith (Judy) Edwards (ALP), Katie Hodson-Thomas (Lib), Sheila McHale and Jaye Radisich (ALP) retired from the Legislative Assembly and did not contest a seat in the 6 September 2008 election. Dianne Guise (ALP), Judith (Judy) Hughes (ALP) and Sue Walker (Lib) were defeated. Lisa Baker (ALP), Janine Freeman (ALP), Liza Harvey (Lib), Andrea Mitchell (Lib) and Rita Saffioti were all elected to the Legislative Assembly.

³⁸ Carolyn Burton (ALP) and Shelley Eaton (ALP) were elected to the Legislative Council on 17 September 2008 to fill vacancies due to the resignation of Hon. Graham Giffard and Hon. Vincent (Vince) Catania.

Parliament	Legislative Assembly	Legislative Council	Total	Total Seats	% Female
38th Parliament (From 6 November 2008)	11	15	26	93 ³¹	27.95
38th Parliament (From 22 May 2009)	12 ³²	16 ³³	28	95 ³⁴	29.5

³¹ The number of seats in the Legislative Assembly increased by two, to 59 at the State General Election on 6 September 2008.

³² Adele Carles (GWA) won the by-election for seat of Fremantle on 16 May 2009 caused by the retirement of Hon. Jim McGinty (ALP) vacating the seat.

³³ MLCs Shelley Archer (Ind); Carolyn Burton (ALP); Shelly Eaton (ALP); Sheila Mills (ALP); Barbara Scott (Lib) terms ended on 21 May 2009. Elizabeth (Liz) Behjat (Lib); Helen Bullock (ALP); Mia Davies (Nat), Alyssa Hayden (Lib), Lynn MacLaren (GWA) and Alison Xamon (GWA) were elected to the Legislative Council for a term commencing 22 May 2009.

³⁴ The number of seats in the Legislative Council increased by two, to 36 at the State General Election on 6 September 2008. These new MLCs took their places on 22 May 2009.

Number of Women in Australian Parliaments

Parliament	Women MPs	ALP	LIB	NAT	AD	GRN	IND	Other	Total MPs	% Female
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>										
Legislative Assembly	7	3	1	-	-	3	-	-	17	41.2
<i>Commonwealth*</i>										
House of Representatives	40	27	12	1	-	-	-	-	150	26.7
Senate	27	14	9	1	-	3	-	-	76	35.5
Total	67	41	21	2		3	-	-	226	29.6
<i>New South Wales</i>										
Legislative Assembly	25	17	5	1	-	-	2	-	93	26.9
Legislative Council	13	6	3	2	-	2	-	-	42	31.0
Total	38	23	8	3	-	2	2	-	135	28.1
<i>Northern Territory</i>										
Legislative Assembly	8	6	-	-	-	2			25	32.0
<i>Queensland</i>										
Legislative Assembly	32	25	-	-	-	-	2	5	89	36.0
<i>South Australia</i>										
Legislative Assembly	17	13	3	1	-	-	-	-	47	36.2
Legislative Council	5	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	22	22.7
Total	22	15	5	1		-	1	-	69	31.9
<i>Tasmania</i>										
Legislative Assembly	6	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	25	24.0
Legislative Council	5	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	15	33.3
Total	11	6	1	-	-	1	3	-	40	27.5
<i>Victoria</i>										
Legislative Assembly	27	21	5	1	-	-	-	-	88	30.7
Legislative Council	13	6	5	-	-	2	-	-	40	32.5
Total	40	27	10	1	-	2	-	-	128	31.3
<i>Western Australia</i>										
Legislative Assembly	12	7	2	-	-	3	2	-	59	20.3
Legislative Council*	16	6	5	2	-	1	-	-	36	44.4
Total	28	13	6	2	-	4	2	-	95	29.4

Women Members in the 38th Parliament

Women Members in the Legislative Assembly

Name	Party	Electorate	Date first elected
Lisa Loraine <i>Baker</i>	ALP	Maylands	6 Sept 2008
Adele <i>Carles</i>	GWA	Fremantle	16 May 2009
Dr Elizabeth <i>Constable</i>	Ind	Churchlands	20 Jul 1991
Janine Marie <i>Freeman</i>	ALP	Nollamara	06 Sept 2008
Lisa Mary <i>Harvey</i>	Lib	Scarborough	06 Sept 2008
Hon. Alannah Joan Geraldine <i>MacTiernan</i>	ALP	Armada	06 Feb 1993
Carol Anne <i>Martin</i>	ALP	Kimberley	10 Feb 2001
Andrea Ruth <i>Mitchell</i>	Lib	Kingsley	06 Sept 2008
Margaret Mary <i>Quirk</i>	ALP	Girrawheen	10 Feb 2001
Hon. Michelle Hopkins <i>Roberts</i>	ALP	Midland	19 Mar 1994
Rita <i>Saffioti</i>	ALP	West Swan	06 Sept 2008
Dr Janet May <i>Woollard</i>	Ind	Alfred Cove	10 Feb 2001

Women Members in the Legislative Council

Name	Party	Region	Date first term
Hon. Elizabeth (Liz) <i>Behjat</i>	Lib	North Metropolitan	22 May 2009
Hon. Helen <i>Bullock</i>	ALP	Mining and Pastoral Region	22 May 2009
Hon. Mia <i>Davies</i>	Nats	Agricultural	22 May 2009
Hon. Catherine (Kate) <i>Doust</i>	ALP	South Metropolitan	22 May 2001
Hon. Wendy Maxine <i>Duncan</i>	NAT	Agriculture	29 Jan 2008
Hon. Suzanne (Sue) <i>Ellery</i>	ALP	South Metropolitan	22 May 2001
Hon. Donna Evelyn Mary <i>Faragher</i>	Lib	East Metropolitan	22 May 2005
Hon. Adele <i>Farina</i>	ALP	South West	22 May 2001
Hon. Alyssa <i>Hayden</i>	Lib	East Metropolitan	22 May 2009
Hon. Lynn <i>MacLaren</i> *	GWA	South Metropolitan	22 May 2009
Hon. Robyn Mary <i>McSweeney</i>	Lib	South West	22 May 2001
Hon. Helen Margaret <i>Morton</i>	Lib	East Metropolitan	22 May 2005
Hon. Ljiljana <i>Ravlich</i>	ALP	East Metropolitan	22 May 1997
Hon. Sally Elizabeth <i>Talbot</i>	ALP	South West	22 May 2005
Hon. Giz <i>Watson</i>	GWA	North Metropolitan	22 May 1997
Hon. Alison <i>Xamon</i>	GWA	East Metropolitan	22 May 2009

* Previously served as a MLC 15 Feb 2005 - 21 May 2005

Total Number of Women Members in the 38th Parliament

	Women MPs	ALP	Lib	GWA	NAT	IND	Total MPs	%
Legislative Assembly	12	7	2	-	1	2	59	20.3
Legislative Council	16	6	5	2	3	-	36	44.4
Total	28	13	7	2	4	2	95	29.4

Women Members in the Barnett Ministry

Name	Portfolio
Hon Dr Elizabeth <i>Constable</i>	Minister for Education; Tourism
Hon. Robyn Mary <i>McSweeney</i>	Minister for Child Protection; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Women's Interests
Hon Donna Evelyn Mary <i>Faragher</i>	Minister for Environment; Youth

Abbreviations

ALP	Australian Labor Party
GWA	Greens (WA)
Ind	Independent
Lib	Liberal
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
Nat	National Party
NCP	National Country Party

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