



FEDERAL ELECTION RESULTS

The Australian Electoral Commission has officially declared results from the recent Australian federal election. The CWP is pleased to report positive news: 73 women have been elected out of 226 parliamentarians, or 32.3 per cent. The number of women parliamentarians has increased by four since the last parliament.

There are three more women parliamentarians in the House of Representatives, and the Senate has one additional woman from the last parliament.

The representation of women in the ministry is 23.9 per cent, or 10 out of 42 members. The cabinet

ministry contains six women out of 23 members, or 26.1 per cent. These figures have remained the same since the previous ministry held between 18 February and 19 July 2016.

On the other side of the aisle, women in the Shadow Ministry make up 13 of 32 members, or 40.6 per cent. The Labor Party is committed to achieving a quota of 50:50 by 2025 and the Liberal Party has opted to recommend state divisions adopt a target of 50 per cent women by 2025.

These figures are a positive step forward for the CWP to achieve its goal of women occupying no less than 30 per cent of decision-making positions.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

	44th Parliament of Australia	45th Parliament of Australia
Coalition	20% (18 of 90)	17.1% (13 of 76)
Labor	38.2% (21 of 55)	40.6% (28 of 69)
Greens	0% (0 of 1)	0% (0 of 1)
Independent	50% (1 of 2)	50% (1 of 2)
PUP	0% (0 of 1)	N/A
NXT	N/A	100% (1 of 1)
KAP	0% (0 of 1)	0% (0 of 1)
Total	26.7% (40 of 150)	28.7% (43 of 150)

SENATE

	44th Parliament of Australia	45th Parliament of Australia
Coalition	24.2% (8 of 33)	26.7% (8 of 30)
Labor	60% (15 of 25)	53.9% (14 of 26)
Greens	50% (5 of 10)	55.6% (5 of 9)
One Nation	N/A	25% (1 of 4)
NXT	N/A	33.3% (1 of 3)
Lib Dem	0% (0 of 1)	0% (0 of 1)
Family First	0% (0 of 1)	0% (0 of 1)
JLN	N/A	100% (1 of 1)
DHJP	N/A	0% (0 of 1)
IND	25% (1 of 4)	N/A
PUP	0% (0 of 1)	N/A
AMEP	0% (0 of 1)	N/A
Total	38.2% (29 of 76)	39.5% (30 of 76)

STEPPING UP

YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS ROLLED OUT ACROSS CWP BRANCHES

As part of the CWP Australia Region's state based activities that help achieve the regional objective of promoting young women to consider a career in politics and leadership, the NSW and ACT CWP branches respectively held their own 'Stepping Up' leadership workshops.

NSW held their workshop at NSW Parliament House on Monday 9 May. The workshop was hosted by NSW Branch Representative Jenny Aitchison and was attended by 50 young women from rural and metropolitan NSW who were each nominated by a Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly and the NSW Legislative Council. Six former members and senior female departmental staff from the Parliament of NSW also attended the workshop.

The half-day workshop began with lunch in the Members' Dining Room during which the attendees were addressed by the Chair of the Australian Region CWP, Hon Catherine Cusack MLC; and the Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, Hon Shelley Hancock MP.

An interactive panel discussion called 'Pathways to Politics' gave current women members the opportunity to discuss their career development with the attendees. Panellists included NSW CWP Branch Representative, Jenny Aitchison MP; Government Whip in the Legislative Council, Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC; Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Health and Western NSW, Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC; Shadow Minister for

Women, Hon Sophie Cotsis MLC; and Member for Ballina, Tamara Smith MP.

A practical session on communication and presentation skills was subsequently conducted by the National Institute of Dramatic Art. The attendees were taught skills to improve their breath and confidence, volume and articulation, and physical presence. The day concluded with networking drinks in the Parliamentary Bar where attendees mingled with current Parliamentarians.

The attendees provided positive feedback and indicated that the program was "empowering and inspiring", "gave tangible skills to take away from the day", and "a great opportunity to network with young women and MPs from all sides of politics".

The NSW 'Stepping Up' was the first young women's leadership conference organised by the CWP Australian Region and the workshop has become a template for other regional branches to use.

The ACT CWP held its own 'Stepping Up' workshop hosted by ACT Branch Representative Nicole Lawder MLA on Monday 20 June. Thirty young women who were each nominated by a female MP attended the event. The Shadow Minister for Women, Guilia Jones MLA, delivered a welcome address and a panel consisting of Liberal, Labor, and Greens MPs answered questions from the attendees about the challenges and triumphs of their career.

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NSW



ACT

A workshop on communicating with confidence and influence was subsequently delivered by Katrina Howard from Katrina Howard Executive Coaching. Former ABC journalist, Ginger Gorman, gave a presentation on women in the media and the methods women can use to attract media attention to their cause.

A panel consisting of community sector professionals spoke about how local community organisations can influence the political process. Speakers included Jordan Lim, YWCA Communications and Advocacy Officer; Jenni Gough, Health and Promotion Officer at the Women’s Centre for Health Matters; and Rebecca Cuzzillo, Policy Director at ACT Youth Coalition. The day concluded with lunch hosted by the Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly, Vicki Dunne MLA.

The CWP Australia Region is very grateful for the funding that has been provided that enabled ‘Stepping Up’ to be such a success. NSW has been asked to make it an annual event and WA is currently in the process of conducting their own event.

Photos of the NSW and ACT ‘Stepping Up’ workshops can be viewed on the CWP Facebook page [here](#)



CHAIR'S REPRESENTATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A meeting in the side-lines of the Women in Parliaments Global Forum

The Chair of the Australian Region CWP, Hon Catherine Cusack MLC, travelled to Amman, Jordan, to attend the Women in Parliaments Global Forum on 4 May.

The Women in Parliament (WIP) is an independent global network of women parliamentarians, of whom there are currently around 9,000 members from around the world.

The WIP Global Summit comes in light of the progress made by women over the last several years, across the Middle East, to increase their participation in political decision-making. The forum was the first of its kind to be held in a Middle East North African country and it was attended by 260 women from 89 countries.

Participants were given a unique opportunity to discuss issues about the role and importance of female decision-makers in today's world. As part of

the forum's program, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians delivered a workshop on 'Political Violence Against Women'.

The workshop focused on what parliamentarians can do to eliminate political violence against women. The participants formed two breakout groups: the first group focused on what parliamentarians can do to tackle political violence against women, and the second group looked at political violence against women during elections and the role of external stakeholders can play to reduce such violence.

Recommendations from the workshop will feed into future work of the CWP, particularly the CWP Annual Conference which will be held in Bangladesh in September 2016.

The workshop was a success and it raised the profile of the CWP and expanded the CWP's partnership at an international level.



CWP MEMBERS ATTEND CPA SEMINAR IN BRISBANE

CPA Queensland Branch hosts 27th CPA Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar

The 27th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar was held from 5 to 11 June by the CPA Queensland Branch at the Parliament of Queensland in Brisbane.

The seminar was officially opened by Hon Paul de Jersey AC, the Governor of Queensland. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, Hon Peter Wellington MP, and Mr Akbar Khan, Secretary-General of the CPA, also delivered welcome speeches.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assmeby of the Queensland Parliament, Hon Peter Wellington MP said: "Opportunities like this seminar allow us to learn from each other about what other 'Westminister' parliaments are doing, what they are not doing, the reasons for adopting particular practices and Standing Orders, and to ventilate issues in a professional and collegial way".

The seminar was attended by a wide cross section

of CPA Branches including: Cameroon, Fiji, India, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, United Kingdom; as well as from Australian state branches including New South Wales, Western Australia, and South Australia.

The participants benefited from a number of presentations and workshops by leading experts in the field of parliamentary governance. A wide variety of topics were covered including: The Evolution and the Role of the CPA, Parliamentarians' Role in Tackling Domestic Violence, and The Parliamentarian's Role in Implementing Sustainable Development Goals.

The CWP Members who participated at the conference included: Jenny Aitchison MP, NSW Branch Representative; Brittany Lauga, QLD Branch Representative; and Lisa Baker, WA Branch Representative.



BOUGAINVILLE WOMEN MPs VISIT

Under the partnership arrangements of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the NSW CWP continues its twinned engagement with the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

On Wednesday 1 June, the NSW CWP hosted four women parliamentarians from Bougainville's House of Representatives. The delegation included Hon Francesca Semoso, Deputy Speaker; Hon Josephine Getsy, Minister for Community Development; Hon Marcelline Kokiai, and Hon Isabel Peta.

As part of the Bougainville MPs visit, the NSW CWP held a roundtable discussion. Discussion included women's economic and social empowerment in the Pacific, challenges facing women getting elected in the Pacific, and violence against women in Bougainville.

The NSW CWP was delighted a number of special guests also spoke including Hon Catherine Cusack MLC, Chair of the Australian Region CWP; Ann Sherry AO, CEO of Carnival Cruises; Anna Kirk, Lowy Research Associate; Jonathan Pryke, Lowy Research Fellow; and Jessica Siriosi, GE PNG Emerging Leader Fellow and Monitoring and

Evaluation Officer, UNDP PNG.

The Hon Francesca Semoso, Deputy Speaker of the Bougainville House of Representatives, spoke at length about the everyday economic challenges facing women living in remote communities; many of whom could profit from the sale of traditional crafts, garments and produce if only there was a more active tourist market. She also spoke passionately about the upcoming referendum and the opportunities it presents for Bougainville to recover, rebuild and grow in the wake of the devastating civil war.

Ms Getsy and Ms Semoso also talked about the changing role and status of women in politics in the Pacific, and the important role they play in advocating on behalf of the community.

NSW Parliamentarians provided insightful opinions and advice on community engagement and change, and economic empowerment. Facilitator Ann Sherry, CEO of Carnival Australia, shed light on the inner

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workings of big tourism operators, providing valuable advice on how Bougainville might seek to develop its infrastructure to enable and attract visitors.

The NSW CWP extends a warm thanks to the following members for their attendance: Hon Thomas George MP, Deputy Speaker; Hon Leslie Williams MP, Minister for Early Childhood, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Assistant Minister for Education; Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy; Hon David Elliot MP, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Veteran's Affairs; Trish Doyle MP, Member for Blue Mountains; and Jihad Dib, Member for Lakemba.



NEWS FROM VICTORIA

Gayle Tierney MLC has stepped down from her role as Victorian Branch Representative due to her recent appointment to Cabinet Secretary. The CWP congratulates Ms Tierney on her promotion and thanks her for her hard work as a CWP Steering Committee Member.

Ms Tierney's farewell message is below:

"It has been a great honour to work with CWP members across Australia to ensure that women are better represented in positions of responsibility. However, my recent appointment to Cabinet Secretary now makes it difficult for me to continue as the CWP Victorian Parliament Delegate. I am confident that whoever is elected as the Victorian Delegate, they will work very closely with all members and the National Steering Committee to ensure that a highly successful CWP Conference in Melbourne next year is achieved.

I have really enjoyed the opportunity to be involved, and I sincerely thank the CWP Committee Members for their extraordinary work and effort. I believe it is important to create greater opportunities for women to participate as fully as possible in society, and will continue my involvement with CWP to realise this goal."

CWP CHAIR ELECTION

The current Australian Region CWP Representative, Hon Catherine Cusack MLC, completes her term this year. Voting is currently underway to elect the next Chair of the Australian Region.

All female CPA Branch members were eligible to nominate for the position, and two nominations were formally received: **Hon Michelle O'Byrne MP** from Tasmania and **Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC** from Western Australia.

Ballot papers have been circulated and voting will close on 19 August 2016. The outcome of the election will be notified as soon as practicable after that date.

Any inquiries about the election arrangements, please contact your local CPA Branch Secretary or Tom Duncan, CPA Regional Secretary, on (02) 6205 0191 or tom.duncan@parliament.act.gov.au



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