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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House of Representatives</th>
<th>44th Parliament of Australia</th>
<th>45th Parliament of Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coalition</td>
<td>20% (18 of 90)</td>
<td>17.1% (13 of 76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>38.2% (21 of 55)</td>
<td>40.6% (28 of 69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greens</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>50% (1 of 2)</td>
<td>50% (1 of 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUP</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NXT</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>100% (1 of 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAP</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26.7% (40 of 150)</td>
<td>28.7% (43 of 150)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>44th Parliament of Australia</th>
<th>45th Parliament of Australia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coalition</td>
<td>24.2% (8 of 33)</td>
<td>26.7% (8 of 30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>60% (15 of 25)</td>
<td>53.9% (14 of 26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greens</td>
<td>50% (5 of 10)</td>
<td>55.6% (5 of 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Nation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>25% (1 of 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NXT</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>33.3% (1 of 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lib Dem</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family First</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JLN</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>100% (1 of 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHJP</td>
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<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IND</td>
<td>25% (1 of 4)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUP</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMEP</td>
<td>0% (0 of 1)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38.2% (29 of 76)</td>
<td>39.5% (30 of 76)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION TO MICHELLE O’BYRNE - NEW CHAIR

Michelle has had a distinguished career in politics. Michelle was first elected to the federal seat of Bass in 1998, increasing her majority in 2001 and serving until 2004. Michelle served as Federal Labor’s Parliamentary Secretary for Communications and was also the national co convenor of Emily’s List.

Michelle was elected as the State Member for Bass in 2006 and has remained the member to the present day. Michelle has held various ministerial roles including Community Development, Local Government, Sport and Recreation, Environment, and Tourism.

After the 2014 state election, Michelle was elected by her caucus colleagues to be the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as well as Shadow Minister for Education, Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation, and Shadow Minister for Women and the Prevention for Family Violence.

Prior to becoming Chair, Michelle was the Tasmanian CWP Branch Representative and Deputy Chair of the CWP. Michelle will host the annual CWP conference at the Tasmanian Parliament House on 4 November 2016.

FAREWELL FROM CATHERINE CUSACK - OUTGOING CHAIR

It has been an honour to have served in this role for what I consider to be the full term, expiring when the CPA holds its international AGM. As you are aware we have elected a new Chair, Hon Michelle O’Byrne who would already have taken office, but for the postponement of the Bangladesh Conference and AGM. I understand great efforts are being made to reschedule the event, however it cannot in all practicality be held earlier than November and I believe this is an unreasonable delay and intrusion upon the incoming Chair’s term of office.

I have spoken to Michelle and congratulated her for her election to the role, and she has agreed to my proposal to resign so that she can get cracking as the new Chair. I am sure she will do a brilliant job.

I would like to express heartfelt thanks to each of the Members of the CWP Steering Committee, yourself as Secretary, CPA Australia Region, Ronda Miller, Rachel Simpson, Laura Ismay and Tom Isaksen of the NSW Parliament and my own assistant Georgina Jassanos for the extraordinary and cheerful support I have received in the role. Our NSW Presiding Officers Shelley Hancock and Don Harwin have from day one given me 200% backing in terms of resources and wisdom and if anything has been accomplished (and I believe it has) it is due to this belief and wisdom that has, I hope put CWP on a sustainable track.

Of course I wish Michelle and the CWP Steering Committee Representatives every success.
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, Giulia 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.

continued next page
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](#).

### NORTHERN TERRITORY ELECTION RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>12th Legislative Assembly</th>
<th>13th Legislative Assembly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country Liberal Party</td>
<td>28.6% (4 of 14)</td>
<td>50% (1 of 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>62.5% (5 of 8)</td>
<td>50% (9 of 18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>66.7% (2 of 3)</td>
<td>40% (2 of 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>44% (11 of 25)</td>
<td>48% (12 of 25)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Northern Territory now leads the states and territories as the leader of women in parliament in Australia. The Northern Territory will have the largest female majority cabinet in Australian history after the Labor government elected five women to its eight person leadership team. Labor’s five female ministers represent 62.5 per cent of its new team. It has almost double the proportion of women in federal cabinet at 35 per cent, and four times the global figure of 17 per cent.

The cabinet includes Nicole Manison, who has been sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister, Natasha Fyles as Attorney General, Lauren Moss as Tourism Minister, Eva Lawler as Education Minister, and Dale Wakefield is the new Families Minister.

A significant achievement was Kezia Purick, Northern Territory CWP Branch Representative, who not only won her seat of Goyder but also retained her speakership in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. Kezia has held the position of speakership since October 2012, and despite Labor’s massive majority following the election, Kezia has held her speakership which signifies huge respect in the community and Parliament. Congratulations Kezia!
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 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

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 Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, Hon Peter Wellington MP said: “Opportunities like this seminar allow us to learn from each other about what other ‘Westminster’ 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 Getsi 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, continued next page
CEO of Carnival Australia, shed light on the inner 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.”

**NEW VICTORIAN REPRESENTATIVE - BRONWYN HALFPENNY**

As a consequence of the retirement of Gayle Tierney as Victorian Branch Representative, Bronwyn Halfpenny MP was elected as the new representative. Bronwyn is the Member for Thomastown in the Victorian Legislative Assembly and is the Government Whip in the Legislative Assembly.

Prior to her election to the Victorian State Parliament in 2010, Bronwyn was the Secretary of the Food and Confectionary Division at the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union from 1999 to 2006, and Industrial Campaigns Officer of the Victorian Trades Hall Council from 2006 to 2010.

Bronwyn is currently the Chair of the Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee, and has served as Deputy Chair on the Family and Community Development Committee.
Steering Committee Contacts

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Chair CWP
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Hon Kezia Purick MLA
Northern Territory Representative
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Member for Goyder
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Ms Jenny Aitchison MP
NSW Representative
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Ms Nicole Lawder MLA
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Member for Keppel
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Ms Katrine Hildyard MP
South Australia Representative
Member for Reynell
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Member for Maylands
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Ms Bronwyn Halfpenny MP
Victoria Representative
Member for Thomastown
Email: bronwyn.halfpenny@parliament.vic.gov.au

Tasmanian branch representative is yet to be confirmed