Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0229

Macklin, Jennifer Louise

(1953 -)

Born	19531229, Brisbane Queensland Australia
Occupation	Parliamentarian

Summary

A member of the Australian Labor Party, Jenny Macklin was elected to the House of Representatives of the Australian Parliament representing the electorate of Jagajaga, Victoria in 1996. She was re-elected in 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016, retiring at the 2019 election. On 22 November 2001, Macklin was elected unopposed as Deputy Leader of the Federal Opposition and retained that position until November 2006. She was Shadow Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Science. With the election of a Labor Government in 2007, she took on the ministerial portfolio of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs. She continued to hold that position after the 2010 election. Her final portfolios before the defeat of the Labor government in September 2013, were Disability Reform; Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

A complete record of her parliamentary service, including links to her first and valedictory speeches, can be found in the Parliamentary Handbook of the Commonwealth of Australia (see below).

Details

Macklin was a member of the Opposition Shadow Ministry from 19 March 1996. She was Shadow Minister for the Aged, Family and Community Services from 20 March 1996 to 27 March 1997, when she was appointed Shadow Minister for Social Security, the Aged and Family Services. On 26 August 1997 Macklin became Shadow Minister for Social Security and the Aged as well as Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition on the Status of Women. By 20 October 1998 she was Shadow Minister for Health and was also Shadow Minister for the Status of Women until 5 September 2000.

After completing a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) at Melbourne University, Macklin worked as a Researcher at the Australian National University from 1976 to 1978 before being employed as an Economics Research Specialist, Legislative Research Service at the Parliamentary Library, Canberra 1978-81. She then worked at the Labor Resource Centre as a Research Coordinator from 1981 to 1985 and until 1988 was Adviser to the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon. D R White, MLC. In 1990 Macklin became Director of the National Health Strategy and in 1993 Director of the Australian Urban and Regional Development Review.

Jenny Macklin was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 2023 for eminent service to the people and Parliament of Australia, to social welfare, particularly the introduction of paid parental leave and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and to the Indigenous community.

Published resources

Resource Section
Jennifer (Jenny) Macklin, Member for Jagajaga, Australian Labor Party, http://www.alp.org.au/people/people.html?seat=jagajaga

Edited Book
Who's Who in Australia 2002, Herd, Margaret, 2002

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Book
Macklin, the Hon. Jennifer (Jenny) Louise AC, 2026, https://handbook.aph.gov.au/parliamentarians/PG6

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia
Papers of the Migrant and Indigenous Women Action Group

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