Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0238

Lawrence, Carmen Mary

(1948 -)

Born	19480302, Morawa Western Australia Australia
Occupation	Parliamentarian, Politician

Summary

Carmen Lawrence became Australia’s first woman State Premier (WA) on 12 February 1990. She began her parliamentary career by winning the seat of Subiaco for the Australian Labor Party in 1986.

She entered Federal politics on 12 March 1994, as the Member for Fremantle, and was appointed Minister for Human Services and Health and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women on 25 March 1994 until 11 March 1996. On 23 November 2001, Lawrence was appointed Shadow Minister for Reconciliation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the Arts, and the Status of Women. She retired from the Australian Parliament at the 2007 general election, which was held in November 2007. A complete record of her parliamentary service, including a link to her first speech, can be found in the Parliamentary Handbook of the Commonwealth of Australia (see below).

Lawrence is a supporter of numerous organisations and is Patron of the Western Australia Netball Association and a Foundation Committee Member of EMILY’S List.

Carmen Lawrence was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2022 for distinguished service to the people and Parliaments of Australia and Western Australia, to conservation, and to arts administration.

For a complete record of her parliamentary service, please see ‘Hon Dr Carmen Lawrence AO’ in the Resource Section below.

Events

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

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

Newspaper Article
The Resurrection of Carmen: How She Rose From the Political Dead, Nicholson, Brendan, 2000

Carmen After the Storm, Powell, Sian, 1997

Journal Article
Carmen and her sisters, Laurie, Victoria, 1997

Lawrence of Canberra, Laurie, Victoria, 1994

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Book
No ordinary lives: pioneering women in Australian politics, Jenkins, Cathy, 2008

Lawrence, the Hon. Dr Carmen Mary, AO,
https://handbook.aph.gov.au/parliamentarians/XS4

Site Exhibition
The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders

Resource Section
Hon Dr Carmen Lawrence AO,
https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Parliamentarian?MPID=XS4

Archival resources

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra
Papers of the Hon Dr Carmen Mary Lawrence MP

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Digital resources



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