

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0238

## Lawrence, Carmen Mary

(1948 - )

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**Born** 2 March, 1948, Morawa Western Australia Australia

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**Occupation** Parliamentarian, Politician

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### 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.

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.

### Events

#### 2001 - 2001

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

## Published resources

### Edited Book

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

### Resource Section

The Hon Dr Carmen Lawrence MP, Member for Fremantle (WA), Australian Parliament House,  
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/members/member.asp?electorate=Fremantle>

### 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

### Site Exhibition

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

## Archival resources

### National Archives of Australia, Various Locations

[The Hon Dr Carmen Mary Lawrence MP](#)

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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## Digital resources



**Title:** Carmen Lawrence

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 3 May, 2023