Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1517

Chikarovski, Kerry Anne

(1956 -)

Born	19560401, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Lawyer, Parliamentarian, Politician, Solicitor

Summary

Kerry Chikarovski is the only woman ever to have held the leadership of the Opposition in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. After her retirement from politics, she published her autobiography, Chika, in 2004. Since 2003 she has been Director, Infrastructure and Planning Australia Pty Ltd.

Details

Kerry Chikarovski was born in Sydney in 1956, the daughter of Greg and Jill Bartels. She was educated at the United Nations International School, Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood, Monte Sant' Angelo, North Sydney and the University of Sydney (BEc LLB). She was President of the Sydney University Law Society 1978-1979 and a Director of the University of Sydney Union 1977-1978.

After graduation, she worked as a solicitor in private practice 1980-1985 and as a Solicitor and Instructor at the College of Law, 1988-1991. She married Chris Chikarovski in 1979 (marriage dissolved) and has two children.

Kerry Chikarovski ran unsuccessfully in the seat of Cabramatta in 1981, but won preselection for the Liberal Party for the safe seat of Lane Cove in 1991 on the retirement of the Attorney General, John Dowd, later Justice Dowd. She held the seat until 2003, when she resigned from Parliament.

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Her parliamentary career is as follows:

Minister for Consumer Affairs and Assistant minister for Education 1992-1993
Minister for Industrial Relations and Employment 1993-1995
Minister for the Status of Women 1993-1995
Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party 1994-1995
Shadow Minister for the Environment 1997-1998
Shadow Minister for the Arts and Women 1999-2002
Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Major Projects 2002-2003
Leader of the Opposition 1999-2002

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition
Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches: Women Candidates for the New South Wales Parliament, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2006,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/pssb/home.html

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens, Trailblazing Women Lawyers Project Team, 2016,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/lawyers

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