

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2035

Walker, Virginia Clare

(1938 -)

Nationality	Australian
Born	27 February, 1938, Waverley New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Activist, Administrator

Summary

Virginia Walker has had a life long passion for social justice and has worked through many organizations to achieve it. As an Australia Party candidate she contested the elections for the House of Representatives seat of Phillip in 1972 and 1974 and for the New South Wales Legislative Assembly seat of Waverley in 1973. She joined the Australian Labor Party in 1976 and stood unsuccessfully for the Woollahra Municipal Council in 1980 and 1983. In May 2000 she was awarded the McKell Inaugural Award for services to the ALP.

Details

Virginia Walker was born in Sydney and educated at Ascham, Sydney, and New England Girls School, Armidale, NSW. After some years of work she became a mature age student at East Sydney Technical College and the Universities of NSW and Sydney, graduating BA 1980 and Dip Criminology 1985.

Virginia worked at clerical jobs in Sydney 1955-60, London 1960-63, and Sydney 1963-72, before moving into administration in the NSW Public Service, working with the Department of Housing, the Parole Board and the Department of Corrective Services. She was appointed in 1982 to the Board of the Langton Centre, a drug and alcohol treatment and education body, and later became treasurer and vice-president.

She was active in abortion reform, penal reform, and the environment movement from her return to Australia in 1963. She was a member of the Women's Electoral Lobby from its foundation in 1972 until 1976, a member of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties and a member of the Australia Cuba Friendship Society 1984-91.

Since her retirement in 1998 Virginia Walker has volunteered as a teacher's aide at Forest Lodge Public School, and at the University of NSW Alumni Association. She is a co-founder of, and volunteer worker for, the Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation (www.asylumseekersfoundation.com) which raises money to support asylum seekers waiting for determination of their claims for asylum. This organization had raised \$266,000 in 2004. Members also assist asylum seekers at court and in detention centres.

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>

Author Details

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