

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2099

Lundy, Kate Alexandra

(1967 -)

Born 19670101, Australia

Occupation Parliamentarian

Summary

In 1996, Kate Lundy became the youngest Labor representative in the Senate and the youngest woman ever elected to represent the Australian Labor Party in Federal Parliament. She was 28 years old. She was re-elected as a senator for the Australian Capital Territory at the next six general elections and resigned from the Senate in March 2015.

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).

Details

Kate Lundy became the youngest Labor representative in the Senate and the youngest woman ever elected to represent the ALP in Federal Parliament when, at age 28, she was elected Senator for the Australian Capital Territory in March 1996. In 1998 Kate was appointed Shadow Minister for Sport and Youth Affairs as well as Shadow Minister Assisting on Information Technology. Kate then became Shadow Minister for Information Technology and Sport after the 2001 federal election. In the reshuffle by Labor Opposition Leader Kim Beazley on 24 June 2005, Kate was given portfolio responsibility for Sport and Recreation.

Kate began her working career as a labourer in the construction industry at age sixteen and became active in the Building Workers Industrial Union (now the CFMEU), later becoming a workplace delegate and a full-time union organiser. Kate was also the youngest person, and first woman, to be elected as President of the ACT Trades and Labour Council.

Kate is recognised for her involvement in IT and the Internet. In 1996 she was awarded 'Most Computer Literate Politician' by the Australian Computer Society and in 1998, was named as one of 'The 20 Most Powerful Internet Decision Makers' by *internet.au* magazine. Kate was the first federal politician in Australia to publish a home page on the internet, which she continues to personally maintain.

Kate Lundy is a passionate sportswoman, especially rowing and scuba diving. She is a member and patron of the Canberra Rowing Club, and patron of a number of other sports and charity organisations. Kate Lundy lives in North Canberra with her husband David. They have a blended family of five children.

On 11 September 2010, Lundy was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Citizenship and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Cabinet as part of the Second Gillard Ministry. In a subsequent reshuffle in March 2012, Lundy was appointed as the Minister for Sport and she was also made Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry and Innovation.

On 1 July 2013, as part of the Second Rudd Ministry, Lundy retained the portfolio of Minister Assisting for Digital Economy. Kate was a member of several Parliamentary Committees, including the Senate Legislation and References Committees on Finance and Public Administration as well as Environment, Information Technology, Communications and the Arts. She was also a member of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories and Presiding Officers' Information Technology Advisory Committee. She resigned from the Senate on 24 March 2015. Since her retirement from Parliament, she was appointed to the boards of the National Roads and Motoring Association (NRMA), the Australian Grand Prix and the Australian Cyber Security Research Centre.

This entry was prepared in 2006 by Roslyn Russell and Barbara Lemon, Museum Services, and funded by the ACT Heritage Unit.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

It's About Time for Women in Australian Sport, Lundy, Kate, 2012,
<http://www.katelundy.com.au/2012/11/01/about-time-for-women-in-australian-sport/>

Site Exhibition

From Lady Denman to Katy Gallagher: A Century of Women's Contributions to Canberra, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2013,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ldkg>

Website

Former Senator Kate Lundy: Parliament of Australia website,
https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Parliamentarian?MPID=7G6

Resource Section

Kate Lundy, 2019,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kate_Lundy

Book

Lundy, the Hon. Kate Alexandra,
<https://handbook.aph.gov.au/parliamentarians/7G6>

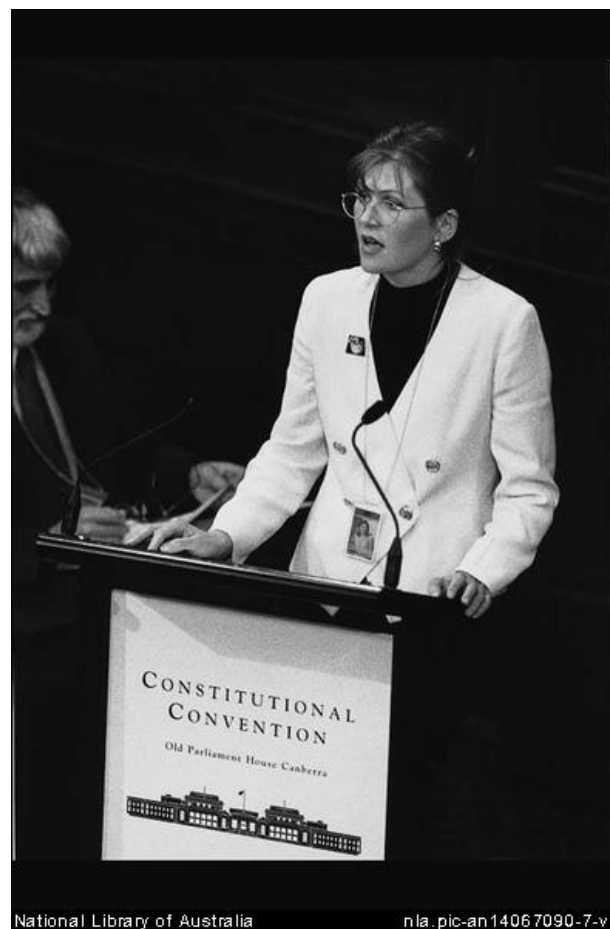
Author Details

Barbara Lemon

Created 4 May 2006

Last modified 2 November 2025

Digital resources



Title: Senator Kate Lundy

Type: Image

Date: 3 May, 2023