Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4081

Ferris, Jeannie Margaret

(1941 - 2007)

Born	19410314, Auckland New Zealand
Died	20070402, Canberra Australian Capital Territory Australia
Occupation	Journalist, Parliamentarian, Political staffer

Summary

A member of the Liberal Party of Australia, Jeannie Ferris was elected as a Senator for South Australia to the Senate of the Parliament of Australia in 1996. She died in office in Canberra from ovarian cancer in 2007. During her parliamentary career she was appointed Government Whip in 2002.

Details

Using her parliamentary position to increase awareness of ovarian cancer, in 2006 Ferris formed a parliamentary inquiry into gynaecological cancers with Senators Lyn Allison and Claire Moore. The outcome of this inquiry resulted in a unanimous report across party lines calling for increased research and awareness of the cancers. The Commonwealth Government later agreed to the report's recommendations.

Ferris succumbed to the disease in Canberra, on 2 April 2007. Following her death, a DVD produced by Kay Stammers with support from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing was dedicated in her memory.

Originally from New Zealand, she settled in Canberra in 1967 where she worked on *The Canberra Times*. She moved to the ABC later, working in the parliamentary gallery. She worked for Liberal Party Senator Nick Minchin before entering the Australian Parliament.

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Book
So Many Firsts: Liberal Women from Enid Lyons to the Turnbull Era, Fitzherbert, Margaret, 2009

Resource Section
A strong voice for women's health (Jeannie Ferris 1941-2007) - obituary, 2007,
http://www.smh.com.au/news/obituaries/a-strong-voice-for-womens-health/2007/04/03/1175366237688.html

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

Archival resources

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra
Papers of Senator Jeannie Ferris

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