

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4082

Stott Despoja, Natasha Jessica

(1969 -)

Born 19690909, Adelaide South Australia Australia

Occupation Parliamentarian

Summary

A member of the Australian Democrats Party, Natasha Stott Despoja was the youngest woman to enter the federal Parliament in Australia as Senator for South Australia in 1995. She was elected Deputy leader of the Party in 1997 and in April 2001 she was elected leader of the Democrats, the youngest person ever to hold such a position in the Australian Parliament. She resigned the leadership position in 2002 and retired from Parliament in June 2008.

She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2019 for distinguished service to the global community as an advocate for gender equality, and through roles in a range of organisations. In the King's Birthday Honours in 2026 she was appointed a Companion of the Order for eminent service to the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence, to gender equity, and to the promotion of human rights and global systemic change.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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

State Library of South Australia

[Women in Politics: A Forum in the Centenary Year of Women's Suffrage \[sound recording\]](#)

Author Details

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