Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4169

Dunn, Patricia Irene

Occupation Documentary filmmaker, Editor, Parliamentarian, University teacher, Writer

Summary

Originally a member of the Nuclear Disarmament Party, and later as an Independent, Irina Dunn was elected to the Senate of the Parliament of Australia as a representative for New South Wales in 1988. She served for a short period only, as she was defeated at the general election, which was held in 1990.

Details

The circumstances of Irina Dunn’s election to the Senate were unusual. Robert Wood was initially elected to the Senate, but was disqualified under section 44 of the Constitution. The High Court of Australia, sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns, determined that a recount of the New South Wales Senate ballots could occur. Dunn, who had been the second person on the Nuclear Disarmament Party’s Senate ticket, was elected. Once Wood gained Australian citizenship, thereby becoming eligible to sit in the national Parliament, the Party requested that Dunn resign in favour of Wood, but she refused to comply with the request and was subsequently expelled from the Nuclear Disarmament Party. She continued to sit in the Senate as an Independent.

Published resources

Journal
Irina Dunn's newsletter, Dunn, Irina, 1989-1990

Book
The case of Paul Alister, Ross Dunn and Tim Anderson, Dunn, Irina and Dimelow, Mark, 1980

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Archives, New South Wales Office, Sydney
Papers of Senator Irina Dunn

National Library of Australia
[Biographical cuttings on Irina Dunn, politician, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

State Library of New South Wales
Irina Dunn further papers, 1980-1990

Irina Dunn further papers, 197- -1990

Irina Dunn papers, ca. 1980-1984, with papers collected relating to early feminists, 1873-1983

Irina Dunn further papers, 1943-1994

Author Details
Rosemary Francis

Created 26 May 2009
Last modified 3 November 2025