

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4272

Palaszczuk, Anastacia

(1969 -)

Born 19690725, Brisbane Queensland Australia

Occupation Lawyer, Parliamentarian, Political advisor

Summary

A member of the Australian Labor Party, Anastacia Palaszczuk was elected to the Parliament of Queensland as the Member for Inala in 2006. She was a minister in the Bligh government, and was elected Leader of the Opposition in March 2012 after the landslide defeat of the Labor Government. After the collapse of the Liberal National Party Government at the 2015 election she became Premier and led the Government for nearly nine years. She resigned as Premier on 15 December 2023 and resigned from Parliament on 31 December that year.

Details

Anastacia Palaszczuk was born on 25 July 1969, in Brisbane, Queensland. She grew up in the Brisbane suburb of Durack and attended Jaboree Heights State School and St Mary's Catholic College, Ipswich. She graduated from the University of Queensland with degrees in Arts and Law and completed a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice at the Australian National University. She followed that up with a British Council Chevening academic scholarship at London University in 1996.

In 2006 she was admitted to practise as a lawyer two weeks after she was elected to the Queensland Parliament, having made the decision to embark on a parliamentary career to make the laws rather than interpret them. She followed her father, Henry Palaszczuk, into politics by standing for the seat of Inala on his retirement and was re-elected at each election from 2009 to 2020. Having been Leader of the Opposition since March 2012 in January 2015 Anastacia Palaszczuk led the Labor Party to an unexpected victory, becoming the first woman to take a party from opposition into government when she became Premier on 14 February 2015 and she led the first majority female cabinet in Australian federal and state and history. She resigned as Premier in December 2023 and from Parliament later that month. A complete record of her parliamentary service, including a link to her first speech, can be found on the Queensland Parliament site (see link below).

Before entering politics, Palaszczuk worked as a part-time sales assistant, a tutor with the Aboriginal and Island Students Service at the University of Queensland, a tutor at the Australian National University, and as an advisor to federal and state members of parliament and ministers. After leaving parliament she was appointed to the Board of Australia Post in August 2024, and from May 2025 has been an Adjunct Professor in the School of Political Science International Studies at the the University of Queensland. In October 2025 Palaszczuk was elected to the Senate of that university.

In the 2026 Australia Day Honours she was appointed as Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) 'for eminent service to the people and Parliament of Queensland, particularly as Premier, to educational equity, to multiculturalism, and to public health.'

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Newspaper Article

Annastacia Palaszczuk: Queensland's accidental premier, King, Madonna, 2015

Site Exhibition

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens, Trailblazing Women Lawyers Project Team, 2016,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/lawyers>

Article

Annastacia Palaszczuk: Wikipedia entry,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annastacia_Palaszczuk

Book

The politics of being me, Palaszczuk, Annastacia, 2026

Archival resources

Queensland State Archives

[The Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP Official Correspondence 2013](#)

[PALASZCZUK, Annastacia Correspondence 2018, 2019, 2020](#)

Queensland Cabinet

[Ministerial diaries of Annastacia Palaszczuk MP](#)

Author Details

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