Entry type: Person
Entry ID: PR00593

Henderson, Yvonne Daphne

(1948 -)

Born	19480516, Yorkshire England, United Kingdom
Occupation	Parliamentarian

Summary

Yvonne Henderson was an Australian Labor Party member of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia. She was elected on 19 February 1983 and served until 14 December, 1996.

Details

Yvonne Henderson was born in Yorkshire in 1948 to Patrick Finn, a bookseller, and Daphne Wood. The family emigrated to Western Australia in 1949. Yvonne attended John Curtin Senior High School and then the University of Western Australia, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Education. She married Jeremy Henderson in 1971, embarked on a teaching career, and became an increasingly active member of the State School Teachers' Union, as well as other community groups. Henderson was elected to the Legislative Assembly as the member for Gosnells in 1983, which she held until elected for Thornlie in 1989. Henderson held the seat of Thornlie until 1996, when she retired before the state election, spending a total fourteen years in Parliament. During this time, Henderson was a vigorous campaigner for the rights of minorities, and was instrumental in getting the Equal Opportunity Bill through the Legislative Assembly.
After leaving Parliament Henderson completed law studies and practised as a solicitor before being appointed head of the state government's Equal Opportunity Commission, remaining in that position for ten years.

In the 2026 Australia Day Honours she was appointed Member of the Order of Australia (AM) 'for significant service to the people and Parliament of Western Australia, and to women.'

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Ms Yvonne Henderson, 2026,
https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/parliament/library/MPHistoricalData.nsf/(Lookup)/562BD14C621B6F94482577E50028A64B?O

Edited Book
Biographical Register of Members of the Parliament of Western Australia, Vol. 2, 1930-1990, Black, David and Bolton, Geoffrey, 1990

Book
We Hold Up Half the Sky: The Voices of Western Australian ALP Women in Parliament, Watson, Judyth [ed.], 1994

Book Section
Making a Difference: Women in the West Australian Parliament 1921-1999, Black, David and Phillips, Harry, 2000

Site Exhibition
The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-home.html

Archival resources

State Library of Western Australia
Yvonne Henderson papers, 1983-1996 [manuscript]

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