

Entry type: Person  
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# Guilfoyle, Margaret Georgina

(1926 - 2020)

Born	19260515, Belfast Northern Ireland
Died	20201111, Victoria Australia
Occupation	Parliamentarian

## Summary

Dame Margaret Guilfoyle was the first woman to be appointed to federal Cabinet with portfolio, when, in 1975 she became Education and then Social Security Minister in the Fraser Liberal Government. In 1980 she became the first woman to hold an economic portfolio when she became Minister for Finance. On 31 December 1979 Margaret Guilfoyle was appointed to the Order of the British Empire (Dames Commander) for her services to public and parliamentary service. She left parliament in 1987.

## Events

### **1993 - 2000**

Board Member, Australian Institute Family Studies

### **1926 - 1926**

Born: daughter of William and Elizabeth (née Ellis) McCarthy

### **1995 - 2001**

Chair, Judicial Remuneration Tribunal

### **1996 - 1996**

Deputy Chair, Infertility Treatment Authority

### **1989 - 1989**

Director, Australian Children's Television Foundation

### **1990 - 1990**

Director, Jack Brockhoff Foundation

### **1975 - 1976**

Federal Minister, Assisting the Prime Minister in Child Care Matters

### **1975 - 1975**

Federal Minister, Education

### **1980 - 1983**

Federal Minister, Finance

### **1975 - 1980**

Federal Minister, Social Security

### **1983 - 1984**

Federal Shadow Minister, Taxation and Finance

### **1968 - 1976**

Honorary National Treasurer, Young Women's Christian Association Australia

### **2001 - 2001**

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

### **1952 - 1952**

Married Stanley Martin Leslie Guilfoyle

### **1970 - 1973**

Member, Appeal Committee for Hall Residence University Papua New Guinea

### **1998 - 2000**

Member, National Health and Medical Research Council

### **1988 - 2001**

Member, National Mental Health Research Institute

### **1993 - 1995**

President Board Management, Royal Melbourne Hospital

### **1971 - 1987**

Senator, Victoria

### **1967 - 1970**

State Chairman Women's Section Liberal Party

### **1990 - 1990**

Trustee, Mark Fitzpatrick Trust

## Published resources

### Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 2002, Herd, Margaret, 2002

### Resource

Victorian Women's Roll of Honour: Women Shaping the Nation, 2001,  
<https://herplacemuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2001-Honour-Roll-Booklet.pdf>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Resource Section

Primary description of person CP 417; The Hon Dame Margaret Georgina Constance Guilfoyle DBE, National Archives of Australia,  
<http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/SearchOld.asp?Number=CP+417>

### Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

### Book

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

## Archival resources

### National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra

[Speech notes and personal papers](#)

[Hon Dame Margaret Georgina Constance GUILFOYLE AC, DBE](#)

### National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Parliamentarians' questionnaires, 1982-1983 \[manuscript\]](#)

### Author Details

Elle Morrell

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## Digital resources

**Title:** The Honourable Dame Margaret Guilfoyle

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