

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0105

Lyons, Enid Muriel

(1897 - 1981)

Born	18970709, Duck River, Smithton Tasmania Australia
Died	19810902, Ulverstone Tasmania Australia
Occupation	Politician

Summary

Dame Enid Lyons AD GBE was the first woman elected to the Australian federal Parliament, in 1943. She was also the first woman in federal Cabinet. She was appointed as a Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) on 11 May 1937 for her public services to Australia and as a Dame of the Order of Australia (AD) on 26 January 1980.

Details

Originally a teacher, Enid had a long-held interest in politics. In 1915 she married Joseph Lyons, who became Prime Minister of Australia in 1931. The couple had 12 children.

In 1943 Enid Lyons was elected to the House of Representatives for the seat of Darwin (in Tasmania) as a candidate for the United Australia party, where she demonstrated her concern with issues surrounding maternity care, child endowment, women's representation in parliament and discrimination in employment.

Events

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Resource

Significant Tasmanian Women: Dame Enid Lyons AO (1897-1981), First woman to be elected to the Commonwealth Parliament, Women Tasmania, 2001,
<http://www.women.tas.gov.au/significantwomen/search/enidlyons.html>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Resource Section

List of Electoral Divisions Named After Women, Australian Electoral Commission,
<http://www.aec.gov.au/history/women/women3.htm>

Dame Enid Lyons, 2002,
<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/australians/elyons.htm>

Primary description of person CP 928; Hon Dame Enid Muriel Lyons AD, DBE, National Archives of Australia,
<http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/SearchOld.asp?Number=CP+928>

Dame Enid Lyons, 2003,
<http://www.abc.net.au/gnt/history/Transcripts/s951058.htm>

Book

Australian women writers : a bibliographic guide, Adelaide, Debra, 1988

Uphill all the way: a documentary history of women in Australia, Daniels, Kay and Murnane, Mary, 1980

Liberal women : Federation to 1949, Fitzherbert, Margaret, 2004

No ordinary lives: pioneering women in Australian politics, Jenkins, Cathy, 2008

The Complete Book of Great Australian Women: Thirty-six women who changed the course of Australia, De Vries, Susanna, 2003

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

Edited Book

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988

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>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Papers of Alexander Gore Gowrie, 1835-1987 \[manuscript\]](#)

[Papers on various Australian women \[19--\] \[manuscript\]](#)

[Papers of Dame Enid Muriel Lyons, 1931-1974 \[manuscript\]](#)

[Papers of Jack and Jean Horner, 1956-2003 \[manuscript\]](#)

State Library of South Australia

[Papers of Janine Haines AM](#)

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Dame Enid Lyons - a tribute \[sound recording\] / presented by the Australian Broadcasting Commission](#)

[Dame Enid Lyons interviewed by Mel Pratt in the Mel Pratt collection \[sound recording\]](#)

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra

[\[Personal Papers of Prime Minister Gorton\]](#)

State Library of New South Wales

[Irina Dunn further papers, 1943-1994](#)

Author Details

Clare Land

Created 1 August 2001

Last modified 8 March 2019