Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0165

Gallagher, Katy

(1970 -)

Born	19700318, Canberra Australian Capital Territory Australia
Occupation	Parliamentarian, Senator, Union organiser

Summary

A member of the Australian Labor Party, Katy Gallagher was elected to the Legislative Assembly for the Parliament of the Australian Capital Territory, representing the electorate of Molonglo, in October 2001. She was re-elected in 2004, 2008 and 2012 and served as Chief Minister from 16 May 2011 to 2014.

In 2014 Gallagher resigned from the ACT government to seek preselection to the Australian Senate. She was appointed to fill the casual vacancy caused by the retirement of Senator Kate Lundy in 2015, and elected in her own right a year later, in 2016. After a brief interruption during the parliamentary eligibility crisis of 2018, when she was forced to stand down because she had not renounced her British citizenship prior to her nomination in 2016, she was re-elected as Senator for Canberra in 2019.

In 2022, she was appointed Minister for Finance, Minister for Women, Vice-President of the Executive Council, and Minister for the Public Service in the Labor Government.

Details

After receiving her secondary education in Canberra, Gallagher obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from the Australian National University, graduating in 1990. She was a project worker for the Woden Community Service and from 1994 to 1997 worked for People First ACT, an organisation providing advocacy and support to individuals with an intellectual disability. She has been active in the community and union sectors for over ten years. She has advocated for both adults and children with intellectual disabilities and for the industrial interests of workers as a Community and Public Sector Union national organiser.

Whilst an MLA for the ACT, Gallagher held a variety of portfolios, including Regional Development, Health and Higher Education, Community Services and the Office for Women. She held the positions of Deputy Chief Minister and Treasurer before she became Chief Minister in 2011.

As a senator in opposition, Gallagher served as Shadow Minister for Mental Health, Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness, and Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader on State and Territory Relations. She was promoted to Shadow Minister for Small Business and Financial Services in 2016, the year she was also appointed as Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate. In 2020 she served as Chair of the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19. In 2022, she was appointed Minister for Finance, Minister for Women, Vice-President of the Executive Council, and Minister for the Public Service in the Labor Government.

Published resources

Resource Section
Katy Gallagher, MLA,
http://www.actlabor.com.au/people/KatyGallagher.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition
From Lady Denman to Katy Gallagher: A Century of Women's Contributions to Canberra, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2013,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ldkg

Website
Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher: Parliament of Australia website,
https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Parliamentarian?MPID=ING

Archival resources

ACT Heritage Library
HMSS 0375 Canberra Centenary Time Capsule

HMSS 0154 Majura Women's Group Records

Author Details
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Digital resources



Title: Australian Servicewomen's Memorial, Canberra
Type: Image
Date: 3 May, 2023



Title: Katy Gallagher at the exhibition launch of <i>From Lady Denman to
Type: Image
Date: 3 May, 2023



Title: COFCLaunch20130221-029-cropped.jpg
Type: Image
Date: 3 May, 2023