Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0205

Patterson, Kay Christine Lesley

(1944 -)

Born	19441121, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Parliamentarian

Summary

Kay Patterson was elected to the Senate for Victoria in 1987. On 7 October 2003 she was appointed Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women. Her other ministerial appointments have included being Minister for Health and Ageing, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. She retired at the expiry of her term in June 2008 prior to the general election. A complete record of her parliamentary service, including links to her first and valedictory speeches, can be found in the Parliamentary Handbook of the Commonwealth of Australia (see below).

Details

Prior to entering Parliament Kay Patterson was Principal Lecturer and Chair with the School of Behavioural Sciences at the Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences. She served on the Council of Monash University (1978-1998) and following her retirement from Parliament she held positions there, including professorial fellowships, in the health sciences field. In 2019 she was awarded a Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) at Monash University. As well as serving on various boards in her post-parliamentary career, Patterson served for two years as a National Mental Health Commissioner and as a member of the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, both from 2014. In July 2016 she was appointed as the national Age Discrimination Commissioner, within the Australian Human Rights Commission, for a five-year term (later extended for another two years).

Having joined the Girl Guides as a child Kay Patterson retained a lifelong connection to the movement, holding senior positions in the Victorian administration. In 2002 she was made a life member of the Girl Guides.

Events

2016 - 2016
Appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

2001 - 2001
Awarded the Centenary Medal ‘for service as Minister for Health and Ageing’

1997 - 1997
Chair of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Environment, Recreation, Communications and the Arts: Legislation Committee

1996 - 1996
Chair of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Environment, Recreation, Communications and the Arts: Legislation Committee

1998 - 1998
Chair of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Environment, Recreation, Communications and the Arts: Legislation Committee

1989 - 1989
Delegate at the 3rd Commonwealth Conference on Delegated Legislation in London

1985 - 1987
Delegate from the Hawthorn West Branch of the Liberal Party State Council

1987 - 1987
Elected to the Senate for Victoria

1983 - 1983
Kellogg Travelling Fellow and Visiting Fellow with the Institue of Gerontology at the University of Michigan

2001 - 2001
Leader of the Delegation to the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa

1977 - 1983
Lecturer with the School of Behavioural Sciences at the Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences

2002 - 2002
Life Member of Guides Victoria

1974 - 1991
Member of Guides Victoria State Council

1993 - 1993
Member of Guides Victoria State Council

1974 - 1985
Member of Guides Victoria State Executive

1988 - 1991
Member of Guides Victoria State Executive

1985 - 1987
Member of the Hawthorn and East Yarra Province Electorate Committee

1978 - 1999
Member of the Monash University Council

1990 - 1996
Member of the Opposition Shadow Ministry

1993 - 1994
Member of the Senate Estimates Committee: C

1990 - 1992
Member of the Senate Estimates Committee: C

1992 - 1992
Member of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Community Affairs

1994 - 1996
Member of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Community Affairs: Legislation Committee

1998 - 1998
Member of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Community Affairs: Legislation Committee

1994 - 1996
Member of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Community Affairs: References Committee

1998 - 1998
Member of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Community Affairs: References Committee

1987 - 1991
Member of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Employment, Education and Training

1996 - 1996
Member of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Employment, Education and Training: References Committee

1997 - 1997
Member of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Environment, Recreation, Communications and the Arts: Legislation Committee

1996 - 1996
Member of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Environment, Recreation, Communications and the Arts: Legislation Committee

1998 - 1998
Member of the Senate Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee for Environment, Recreation, Communications and the Arts: Legislation Committee

1988 - 1993
Member of the Senate Standing Committee for Regulations and Ordinances

1996 - 1996
Member of the Senate Standing Committee for Regulations and Ordinances

1997 - 1998
Member of the Senate Standing Committee for Regulations and Ordinances

1987 - 1990
Member of the Senate Standing Committee for Scruting of Bills

1985 - 1987
Membership Officer of the Hawthorn West Branch of the Liberal Party

2003 - 2003
Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women

2001 - 2003
Minister for Health and Ageing

2000 - 2000
Official visit to New Zealand

2001 - 2001
Official visit to Papua New Guinea

2001 - 2001
Official visit to Samoa

1997 - 1997
Parliamentary Adviser at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York

1992 - 1993
Parliamentary Secretary to the Chair of the Family, Social and Health Policy Group

1990 - 1992
Parliamentary Secretary to the Chair of the Social Policy and Health Group

2000 - 2001
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

1998 - 2001
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

1994 - 1995
Parliamentary Secretary to the Shadow Minister for Community Services, Senior Citizens and Aged Care

1995 - 1996
Parliamentary Secretary to the Shadow Minister for Health and Human Services

1996 - 1998
Participating member of the Community Affairs: Legislation Committee

1995 - 1996
Participating member of the Economics: Legislation Committee

1996 - 1997
Participating member of the Environment, Recreation, Communications and the Arts: Legislation Committee

1996 - 1998
Participating member of the Environment, Recreation, Communications and the Arts: References Committee

1986 - 1987
Principal Lecturer and Chair with the School of Behavioural Sciences at the Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences

1983 - 1985
Senior Lecturer with the School of Behavioural Sciences at the Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences

1974 - 1976
Senior Tutor with the Psychology Department at Monash University

1993 - 1994
Shadow Minister for Senior Citizens and Aged Care and Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader of the Opposition on Women’s Affairs and the Arts

1961 - 1964
Small business secretary and office manager

1996 - 1998
Temporary Chair of Committees

1970 - 1970
Tutor with the Faculty of Education at the University of Sydney

1986 - 1987
Vice-President of the Hawthorn West Branch of the Liberal Party

1985 - 1985
Visiting Scholar with the Gerontology Center at Pennsylvania State University

Published resources

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

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Patterson, the Hon. Dr Kay Christine Lesley, AO, 2026,
https://handbook.aph.gov.au/parliamentarians/LI4

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

Site Exhibition
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 Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra
Papers of Senator Kay Patterson

National Archives of Australia, Victorian Office, Melbourne
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