Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0209

Symonds, Elizabeth Ann

(1939 - 2018)

Born	19390712, Murwillumbah New South Wales Australia
Died	20181115, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Campaigner, Parliamentarian

Summary

Ann Symonds was a member of the New South Wales Legislative Council from 1982 to 1998.

Details

Ann Symonds trained as a teacher at Armidale and taught at Casino before being transferred to Sydney in 1960. She studied Drama (1972-74) and later Law (1984-1985 – deferred), both at the University of New South Wales.

Between 1974 and 1977 Symonds was an Alderman at Waverley Municipal Council, and in 1977 became Waverley's first woman Deputy Mayor. She was appointed to the NSW Legislative Council in 1982, and worked in this role until her resignation in 1998. Elected for the Australian Labor Party, she was a member since 1967 and held numerous party positions including Branch President, State Electorate Council President and Federal Electorate Council executive member.

Throughout her public and parliamentary career Symonds worked on women's policy, with particular reports on prisons, housing and sexual violence, as well as on children's policy, peace and disarmament, inquiries into Drug Law and Policy in NSW, and preparation of the Labor Party's Social Justice Policy at the NSW and National level.
She was Patron of the Mothers' and Children's Program, Corrective Services; the Chair, Board of Family Drug Support; and Chair, Board of Guthrie House (residential program for women and children in the Justice system).

Ann Symonds was married with five children. In 2015 Ann was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to social justice, particularly through drug law reform, and to the Parliament of New South Wales.

Published resources

Resource
Biographies: Ann Symonds, Women's History Month, 2000,
http://www.nwmc.org.au/history2/biogs/symons.htm

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Report
Sexual violence : addressing the crime : Inquiry into the Incidence of Sexual Offences in New South Wales, Part 2, Standing Committee on Social Issues, Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales, 1996

Book
Women and prisons, an agenda for change: 10 March 1993, Augles, Ann, Children of Prisoners Support Group, Symonds, Ann, 1993

Site Exhibition
Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches: Women Candidates for the New South Wales Parliament, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2006,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/pssb/home.html

Author Details
Clare Land

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