



# Information for new members



# Welcome to the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) is a non-partisan network of women parliamentarians within Australia who are committed to the advancement of women in Australian politics. Each of the states, territories and the federal Parliament elect a representative to the CWP Australian Region Steering Committee.

CWP has an active presence in all Australian parliaments, and members use various methods; such as mentions in parliamentary debates, hosting forums and inter-parliamentary events, to raise awareness of the work and focus of the CWP.

Aims of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians:

1. To increase the number of women in Australian parliaments.
2. To provide a network for current women Members of Parliament.
3. To encourage young women to engage with democratic processes, build careers in the political sphere and learn more about the Commonwealth.
4. To educate all Members of Parliament on the work of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians and encourage them to get involved in its activities.

## The CWP Australia Region Steering Committee

The CWP Australia Region Steering Committee is a body of 10 women MPs representing each of Australia's federal, state and territory parliaments plus one Chair. The Committee is currently chaired by The Honourable Michelle O'Byrne MP, from the Tasmanian Parliament.

The terms and rules for election are determined by each Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Branch and differ for each parliament. For more information contact the Secretary of your CPA Branch.

Operating on a non-partisan basis, Steering Committee members convene regular meetings to discuss progress in their states, as well as to plan future events and publications.

The Steering Committee updates interested readers on its progress via a quarterly newsletter, as well as through its website. Interested readers are also invited to contact their state or territory representative with any questions or suggestions they may have.

## **Achievements and activities**

The Steering Committee runs a professional development conference for women parliamentarians every two years. These operate on a non-partisan basis and provide an opportunity for women to share their experiences.

Events are also regularly held in the branches by the CWP to support and inspire young women to consider politics as a career.

The CWP Australia Region reached out to Pacific women parliamentarians initiating the Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships project that ran for five years (2012–2017) to help their counterparts in the Pacific region.

The CWP Steering Committee Australia Region is currently addressing bullying and harassment in parliaments as workplaces, compiling best-practice examples and calling political parties and parliaments to account.

## CWP Steering Committee contact list



**Hon. Michelle O'Byrne MP**

Chair

Member for Bass, Tasmania

Email: [michelle.obyrne@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:michelle.obyrne@parliament.tas.gov.au)



**Hon. Kezia Purick MLA**

Northern Territory Representative

Member for Goyder

Email: [kezia.purick@nt.gov.au](mailto:kezia.purick@nt.gov.au)



**Ms Sonia Hornery MP**

NSW Representative

Member for Wallsend

Email: [wallsend@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wallsend@parliament.nsw.gov.au)



**Ms Sonya Kilkenny**

Victoria Representative

Member for Carrum

Email: [sonya.kilkenny@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:sonya.kilkenny@parliament.vic.gov.au)



**Ms Sharon Claydon MP** Commonwealth of Australia Representative Member for Newcastle, NSW

Email: [Sharon.Claydon.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.Claydon.MP@aph.gov.au)



**Ms Lisa Baker MLA**

Western Australia Representative  
Member for Maylands  
Email: [lisa.baker@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:lisa.baker@mp.wa.gov.au)



**Ms Katrine Hildyard MP**

South Australia Representative  
Member for Reynell  
Email: [katrine.hildyard@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:katrine.hildyard@parliament.sa.gov.au)



**Ms Giulia Jones MP**

ACT Representative  
Member for Murrumbidgee  
Email: [jones@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:jones@parliament.act.gov.au)



**Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC**

Tasmania Representative  
Member for Murchison  
Email: [ruth.forrest@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:ruth.forrest@parliament.tas.gov.au)



**Ms Joan Pease MP**

Queensland Representative  
Member for Lytton  
Email: [joan.pease@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:joan.pease@parliament.qld.gov.au)

## CWP International

The CWP International is part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), an international parliamentary organisation of Commonwealth parliaments. It was created in Barbados in 1989 and gained official recognition at the CPA Executive Committee meeting in 1992. The CWP International is currently guided by policy priorities determined at a Working Group held in the United Kingdom in February 2017.

The CWP International Steering Committee comprises 10 members: one Member from each of the 9 CPA regions and the elected Chairperson. Each Steering Committee member serves a term of 3 years. The Australian Region is currently represented by The Hon. Michelle O’Byrne MP, who was elected in 2016. Michelle was subsequently elected to the position of Deputy Chair of the International Steering Committee in 2018.

## The CWP Mission Statement

The CWP, as an integral part of the CPA, works for the better representation of women in legislatures and for the furtherance of gender equality across the Commonwealth.

The strategic purpose of the CWP is to:

- increase female representation in parliaments and legislatures in the Commonwealth
- provide a means of building the capacity of women elected to parliament to be more effective in their roles
- improve the awareness and ability of all Parliamentarians, male and female, and encouraging them to include a gender perspective in all aspects of their role—legislation, oversight and representation and helping parliaments to become gender-sensitive institutions.