

Julia Eileen GILLARD

Prime Minister 24 June 2010 -



- Julia Gillard became the 27th Prime Minister after she was elected unopposed in a ballot for the leadership of the Australian Labor Party.
- Member of the Australian Labor Party.
- Member of the House of Representatives for Lalor (Vic) 1998-, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Minister for Education and Minister for Social Inclusion 2007-2010.

Main achievements (2010-)

- The first woman to become Prime Minister, and the first woman to be Deputy Prime Minister.
- As Workplace Relations minister, oversaw the dismantling of the controversial 'WorkChoices' legislation and its replacement with Fair Work Australia.
- As Education minister, responsible for a \$16 billion program to improve school accommodation and infrastructure.

Personal life

- Born 29 September 1961 in Barry, Glamorgan, Wales. Father John was a policeman and later a railway clerk and a psychiatric nurse; mother Moira worked in aged care.
- As a child suffered respiratory problems. Emigrated with her family as '£10 poms' to Adelaide in 1966 as a warmer climate was more suited to her health.
- Attended Unley High School, University of Adelaide and University of Melbourne, graduating with arts and law degrees in 1986.
- President of the Australian Union of Students 1983-1984
- Joined law firm Slater and Gordon in 1987.
- Chief of Staff to Victorian ALP leader (later Premier) John Brumby 1996-1998
- Partner (since 2006) is Tim Mathieson.



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Character

'Julia Gillard answers questions readily, laughs easily and has a nice line in self-deprecation...she is easy to talk to, hiding any natural wariness behind a smiling and relaxed manner. It is obvious that she genuinely likes people. But she gives little away. Under that engaging manner is a reserved person, a woman who is very well self-protected.' - Kent, Jacqueline, *The Making of Julia Gillard*, Camberwell, Vic; Penguin, 2009

Did you know?

- Gillard is the first Prime Minister to be sworn in by a woman (Governor-General Quentin Bryce).
- First Prime Minister to be born overseas since Billy Hughes; Gillard is also the first Prime Minister to be born in Wales.
- Gillard is the first Prime Minister to have spent a significant period of her upbringing in South Australia, though she later moved to Melbourne and represents a Victorian seat in Parliament.
- The Gillard family's immigration file describes them as 'An excellent family... well presented' [National Archives of Australia: A1877, 07/02/1966 FAIRSKY GILLARD J O]

Further reading

Kent, Jacqueline, *The Making of Julia Gillard*, Camberwell, Vic: Penguin, 2009

Donovan, Barry, *Reconnecting Labor*, Carlton, Vic: Scribe, 2006

Latham, Mark, *The Latham Diaries*, Carlton, Vic: Melbourne University Press, 2005

Jackman, Christine, *Inside Kevin 07: The People, the Plan, the Prize*, Melbourne University Press, 2008



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