

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0230

## Gillard, Julia Eileen

(1961 - )

---

**Born** 29 September, 1961, Barry Wales

---

**Occupation** Lawyer, Parliamentarian, Prime Minister, Solicitor

---

### Summary

On June 24, 2010, Julia Gillard became the first woman Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia and retained her position after the federal election, which was held on 21 August 2010. She led a minority Labor Government, supported by a member of the Greens party and three Independents. She lost the prime ministership on 27 June 2013, when Kevin Rudd challenged her for the position and won. She retired from parliament in August 2013.

Her career in parliamentary politics began when she was elected Member of the House of Representatives for Lalor (Victoria) in 1998 and re-elected in 2001, 2004, 2007 and 2010. She became Deputy Leader of the Opposition (ALP) in December 2006. On the election of the Labor Government in November 2007, she assumed the position of Deputy Prime Minister and took on the portfolios of Employment and Workplace Relations, Education and Social Inclusion.

In 2017, Julia Gillard was made a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia 'for eminent service to the Parliament of Australia, particularly as Prime Minister, through seminal contributions to economic and social development, particularly policy reform in the areas of education, disability care, workplace relations, health, foreign affairs and the environment, and as a role model to women.'

### Details

Educated at Unley High School (SA) and the Universities of Adelaide and Melbourne, Julia Gillard worked as a solicitor with Slater and Gordon from 1987 to 1990, when she became a partner with the firm. In 1996, Gillard became Chief-of-Staff to John Brumby (then Leader of the Victorian Opposition) and retained her position until her election to federal parliament in 1998.

Gillard has served as Shadow Minister for Population and Immigration (November 2001 to July 2003); Shadow Minister for Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs (February 2003 to July 2003); Shadow Minister for Health (July 2003 to December 2006); and Manager of Opposition Business (December 2003 to December 2006). She became Deputy Leader of the Opposition in December 2006. In 2010 she became Prime Minister of Australia.

### Events

#### 1990 - 1996

Partner, Slater & Gordon Solicitors

#### 1987 - 1990

Solicitor, Slater & Gordon Solicitors

#### 1993 - 1997

Member, Administrative Committee, Victorian Branch of the Australian Labor Party

#### 1982 - 1983

Member, National Let's Develop Education Committee, Victorian Branch of the Australian Labor Party

#### 1983 - 1983

President, Australian Union of Students

**1982 - 1982**

Vice-President, National Education Australian Union of Studies

**2001 - 2003**

Shadow Minister for Population and Immigration

**1981 - 1981**

President, Adelaide University Union

**1980 - 1980**

Member, Adelaide University Union

**2003 - 2003**

Shadow Minister for Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs

**2003 - 2006**

Shadow Minister for Health

**2006 - 2007**

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

**1961 - 1961**

Born: daughter of John Oliver and Moira Gillard

**1996 - 1998**

Chief of Staff to Leader of the Opposition John Brumby

**1998 - 1998**

Elected Member House of Representatives (MHR) for the Australian Labor Party (ALP) for the Victorian electorate of Lalor

**2010 - 2013**

Prime Minister of Australia

**2007 - 2010**

Deputy Prime Minister

**2013 - 2013**

Honorary Visiting Professor of Politics at the University of Adelaide

**2014 - 2014**

Appointed chairwoman of the Global Partnership for Education focussed on the education of children in the world's poorest countries

**2014 - 2014**

Appointed to the Board of the mental health institution beyondblue

**2017 - 2017**

Appointed Chair of Beyond Blue

**2017 - 2017**

Appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)

## Published resources

### Edited Book

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

### Resource Section

Ms Julia Gillard MP, Parliament House, House of Representatives,  
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/members/member.asp?id=83L>

Law, Kerwin, Hollie and Rubenstein, Kim, 2014,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0624b.htm>

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Article

Gillard becomes Australia's first female PM after Rudd goes down without fight, Staff reporters, 2010,  
<http://www.theage.com.au/national/gillard-becomes-australias-first-female-pm-after-rudd-goes-down-without-fight-20100624-z02>

### Book

The Making of Julia Gillard, Kent, Jacqueline, 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>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens, Trailblazing Women Lawyers Project Team, 2016,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/lawyers>

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

**Created** 21 December 2001

**Last modified** 1 February 2025

## Digital resources



**Title:** Photo Montage Julia Gillard

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 3 May, 2023