

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE1855

## Isaksen, Dorothy May

(1930 - 2023)

---

**Born** 13 April, 1930, North Sydney New South Wales Australia

---

**Died** 29 August, 2023, Sydney New South Wales Australia

---

**Occupation** Parliamentarian

---

### Summary

Dorothy Isaksen joined the ALP 1954 and was on the ALP Youth Council Executive from 1957 to 1958. She became the first woman organiser of the NSW ALP and was on the party's Central Executive 1970-71, and the Administration Committee 1976-79. She was President of the Labor Women's Committee 1973-79 and was President, then Secretary of the National Labor Women's Committee 1975-79. She ran for Wakehurst in 1968 and was then elected to the New South Wales Legislative Council for the balance of the term of the Hon. Deirdre Grusovin. She was re-elected in 1990. From April 1995 to the end of her term in 1999, she was Government whip in the Legislative Council. She was a member of the Board of the Royal North Shore Hospital 1977-1986 and was Deputy Chairperson of the New South Wales Women's Advisory Council 1976-78. Isaksen was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2018 Australia Day Honours, for 'significant service to the Parliament of New South Wales, as an advocate for gender equality in politics, as a mentor, and to the community'.

Dorothy Isaksen was married to Neville (died 24 June 2002) and they had two daughters.

### Published resources

#### Book Section

HERstory: Australian Labor Women in Federal, State and Territory Parliaments 1925-1994, 1994

#### 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>

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Author Details

Annette Alafaci

**Created** 31 January 2006

**Last modified** 6 August 2024