

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE4080

## Lees, Meg Heather

(1948 - )

---

**Born** 19 October, 1948, Sydney New South Wales Australia

---

**Occupation** Parliamentarian, Teacher

---

### Summary

Originally a member of the Australian Democrats Party, Meg Lees served as a Senator for South Australia in the Senate of the Parliament of Australia from 1990 until 2002, when she left the party to sit as an Independent. She was elected leader of the Party in 1997 and played an influential role in the introduction of a Goods and Service Tax in Australia in 2000. Lees was defeated for the Party leadership by Senator Stott Despoja in 2001. In 2003 Lees formed the Australian Progressive Alliance but lost her seat at the 2004 federal election.

### Published resources

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Book

Striking a fair balance in industrial relations, Lees, Meg, 1999

#### Site Exhibition

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

### Archival resources

#### National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Meg Lees, politician, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

#### National Library of Australia, Pictures Collection

[John Anderson, Bob Carr, Sir Gordon Samuels, Evelyn Scott, Sir William Deane, John Howard, Sir Gustav Nossal, Kim Beazley and Meg Lees, members of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation at Corroboree 2000 \[picture\] / Loui Seselja](#)

### Author Details

Rosemary Francis

**Created** 24 February 2009

**Last modified** 6 February 2018