

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE4082

## Stott Despoja, Natasha Jessica

(1969 - )

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**Born** 1 January, 1969, Adelaide South Australia Australia

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**Occupation** Parliamentarian

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### Summary

A member of the Australian Democrats Party, Natasha Stott Despoja was the youngest woman to enter the federal Parliament in Australia as Senator for South Australia in 1995. She was elected Deputy leader of the Party in 1997 and in April 2001 she was elected leader of the Democrats, the youngest person ever to hold such a position in the Australian Parliament. She resigned the leadership position in 2002 and retired from Parliament in June 2008.

### Events

#### 2019 - 2019

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO): For distinguished service to the global community as an advocate for gender equality, and through roles in a range of organisations.

### Published resources

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### 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

#### State Library of South Australia

[Women in Politics: A Forum in the Centenary Year of Women's Suffrage \[sound recording\]](#)

### Author Details

Rosemary Francis

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