

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE4169

## Dunn, Patricia Irene

---

**Occupation** Documentary filmmaker, Editor, Parliamentarian, University teacher, Writer

---

### Summary

Originally a member of the Nuclear Disarmament Party, and later as an Independent, Irina Dunn was elected to the Senate of the Parliament of Australia as a representative for New South Wales in 1988. She served for a short period only, as she was defeated at the general election, which was held in 1990.

### Details

The circumstances of Irina Dunn's election to the Senate were unusual. Robert Wood was initially elected to the Senate, but was disqualified under section 44 of the Constitution. The High Court of Australia, sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns, determined that a recount of the New South Wales Senate ballots could occur. Dunn, who had been the second person on the Nuclear Disarmament Party's Senate ticket, was elected. Once Wood gained Australian citizenship, thereby becoming eligible to sit in the national Parliament, the Party requested that Dunn resign in favour of Wood, but she refused to comply with the request and was subsequently expelled from the Nuclear Disarmament Party. She continued to sit in the Senate as an Independent.

### Published resources

#### Journal

Irina Dunn's newsletter, Dunn, Irina, 1989-1990

#### Book

The case of Paul Alister, Ross Dunn and Tim Anderson, Dunn, Irina and Dimelow, Mark, 1980

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Archival resources

#### National Library of Australia

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

#### State Library of New South Wales

[Irina Dunn further papers, 1980-1990](#)

[Irina Dunn further papers, 197- -1990](#)

[Irina Dunn papers, ca. 1980-1984, with papers collected relating to early feminists, 1873-1983](#)

[Irina Dunn further papers, 1943-1994](#)

### Author Details

Rosemary Francis

**Created** 26 May 2009

**Last modified** 20 November 2018