

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE0075

Guilfoyle, Margaret Georgina

(1926 - 2020)

Born 15 May, 1926, Belfast Northern Ireland

Died 11 November, 2020, Victoria Australia

Occupation Parliamentarian

Summary

Dame Margaret Guilfoyle was the first woman to be appointed to federal Cabinet with portfolio, when, in 1975 she became Education and then Social Security Minister in the Fraser Liberal Government. In 1980 she became the first woman to hold an economic portfolio when she became Minister for Finance. On 31 December 1979 Margaret Guilfoyle was appointed to the Order of the British Empire (Dames Commander) for her services to public and parliamentary service. She left parliament in 1987.

Events

1926 - 1926

Born: daughter of William and Elizabeth (née Ellis) McCarthy

1952 - 1952

Married Stanley Martin Leslie Guilfoyle

1967 - 1970

State Chairman Women's Section Liberal Party

1970 - 1973

Member, Appeal Committee for Hall Residence University Papua New Guinea

1968 - 1976

Honorary National Treasurer, Young Women's Christian Association Australia

1993 - 2000

Board Member, Australian Institute Family Studies

1993 - 1995

President Board Management, Royal Melbourne Hospital

1998 - 2000

Member, National Health and Medical Research Council

1983 - 1984

Federal Shadow Minister, Taxation and Finance

1975 - 1976

Federal Minister, Assisting the Prime Minister in Child Care Matters

1975 - 1975

Federal Minister, Education

1995 - 2001

Chair, Judicial Remuneration Tribunal

1989 - 1989

Director, Australian Children's Television Foundation

1990 - 1990

Director, Jack Brockhoff Foundation

1990 - 1990

Trustee, Mark Fitzpatrick Trust

1996 - 1996

Deputy Chair, Infertility Treatment Authority

2001 - 2001

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

1980 - 1983

Federal Minister, Finance

1975 - 1980

Federal Minister, Social Security

1971 - 1987

Senator, Victoria

1988 - 2001

Member, National Mental Health Research Institute

Published resources

Edited Book

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

Resource

Victorian Women's Roll of Honour: Women Shaping the Nation, 2001,
<https://herplacemuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2001-Honour-Roll-Booklet.pdf>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Resource Section

Primary description of person CP 417; The Hon Dame Margaret Georgina Constance Guilfoyle DBE, National Archives of Australia,
<http://naa12.naa.gov.au/scripts/SearchOld.asp?Number=CP+417>

Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Book

So Many Firsts: Liberal Women from Enid Lyons to the Turnbull Era, Fitzherbert, Margaret, 2009

Archival resources

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra

[Speech notes and personal papers](#)

[Hon Dame Margaret Georgina Constance GUILFOYLE AC, DBE](#)

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Parliamentarians' questionnaires, 1982-1983 \[manuscript\]](#)

Author Details

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Digital resources

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