

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person

**Entry ID:** AWE0075

## Guilfoyle, Margaret Georgina

(1926 - 2020)

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**Born** 15 May, 1926, Belfast Northern Ireland

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**Died** 11 November, 2020, Victoria Australia

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**Occupation** Parliamentarian

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### 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

### **2026 - 2026**

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

### **2052 - 2052**

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**

Elle Morrell

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## Digital resources

**Title:** The Honourable Dame Margaret Guilfoyle  
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