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AUSTRALIA'S MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND AWARD-WINNING POLITICAL TRAINING

Pathways to Politics for Women is increasing the number of women in Australian politics by equipping diverse women to boldly embrace their political ambitions, thrive as leaders and make a profound contribution to society.

Through comprehensive practical training, workshops, mentoring and career-long support, Pathways to Politics provides unparalleled expertise for women who are serious about driving change through political leadership.

Pathways to Politics for Women celebrated its 10 year anniversary in 2025.

- Open to women across Australia. Program participation is fully funded through the support of the Trawalla Foundation and university partners.
- Participants are supported to realise their capabilities through practical training and workshops, Q&As and networking opportunities with high-profile guest presenters from across the political spectrum, including current and former politicians, media trainers, speechwriters and strategists.
- Training covers political vision, campaign planning, media training, speechwriting and leadership skills.
- Alums can apply to participate in a mentoring program where they are matched with mentors across the political spectrum who provide one-to-one guidance.

NATIONAL IMPACT

Impact achieved across the political spectrum and at all levels of government – local, state and federal.



**92 ELECTORAL
SUCCESSES
64 ALUMS
CURRENTLY IN
OFFICE**

More impact data overleaf ➤



**120 ALUMS RAN
FOR ELECTION IN
2024**



**41% ELECTORAL
SUCCESS RATE IN
2024 ELECTIONS**



**COMMUNITY OF
750+ ALUMS
ACROSS
AUSTRALIA**

RECENT SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Current politicians – Hon. Katy Gallagher MP, Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, Senator Hon. Jane Hume, Senator Hon. Malarndirri McCarthy, Allegra Spender MP, Senator Hon. Penny Wong
- Former politicians – Dame Jacinda Ardern GNZM, Carmen Lawrence AO
- Experts – Patricia Karvelas, Tracey Spicer AM



NATIONAL NETWORK AND PROGRAMS

Pathways to Politics for Women is a national, non-partisan initiative led by a dedicated national team and delivered in partnership with eight leading universities across every state and territory. Each program is uniquely tailored to reflect and respond to its local context.

The foundational Pathways to Politics program launched at the University of Melbourne in 2016, followed by programs at QUT in 2020, UNSW in 2021, Charles Darwin University in 2022, the University of Adelaide and University of Canberra in 2023, and The University of Western Australian and University of Tasmania in 2024.

This national network is led by the National Co-Convenors Sarah Buckley, CEO of the Trawalla Foundation, and Dr Meredith Martin, Director of the University of Melbourne's Pathways to Politics program.

The program was initiated through the vision of Carol Schwartz AO and established as an initiative of her family foundation, Trawalla Foundation, with Women's Leadership Institute Australia and the University of Melbourne.

IMPACT

- **92 electoral successes achieved nationally across the political spectrum at local, state and federal levels of government** (including alums successful in multiple electoral cycles)
- **64 alums are currently serving in Australian parliaments and councils**
- Significant numbers of alums have run for public office – **247 total electoral runs, with a 37% success rate**
 - In 2025, 28 alums ran in the 2025 federal election, with three elected.
 - In 2024, 120 alums ran in state, territory and local elections across Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory and the ACT, with 49 elected – a 41% success rate.
- There are more than **750** alums nationally.
- **89% of alums intend to run for elected office in the next 10 years.**

INFORMATION AND DOWNLOADS:

- [About Pathways to Politics for Women](#)
- [Celebrating 10 Years of Impact publication](#)
- [Alum profiles](#)
- [Quotes from politicians, supporters and alums](#)
- [Photos and brand assets](#)

CONTEXT: % WOMEN IN AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

[Sources and further data available on the Pathways to Politics Knowledge Hub](#)

Federal Parliament

- House of Reps 46%
- Senate 56.6%

State/Territory Parliaments

44.3% women overall

Local Government

• VIC	43.2%
• QLD	44%
• TAS	42.5%
• WA	39.6%
• SA	40%
• NSW	40.5%

Note: Pathways to Politics for Women embraces an inclusive definition of 'women', acknowledging the diversity of women they work with and aim to support, including cisgender and transgender women, and non-binary people.

"We need programs like Pathways to Politics, that special energy that happens when women come together to support each other, to learn from each other, to make sure that they're ready to step forward into the political world."

– THE HON JULIA GILLARD AC