PATHWAYS TO POLITICS FOR WOMEN

MEDIA KIT

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AUSTRALIA'S MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND AWARD-WINNING POLITICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

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 10th anniversary in 2025.

- Open to women across Australia, fully funded through the support of the Trawalla Foundation and university partners.
- Travel and accommodation bursaries available for rural and regional applicants, supported by Minderoo Foundation.
- 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, preselection, campaign and media training, speechwriting and leadership skills.
- Alums can apply to a mentoring program where they are matched with experienced mentors across the political spectrum.

ELECTORAL IMPACT

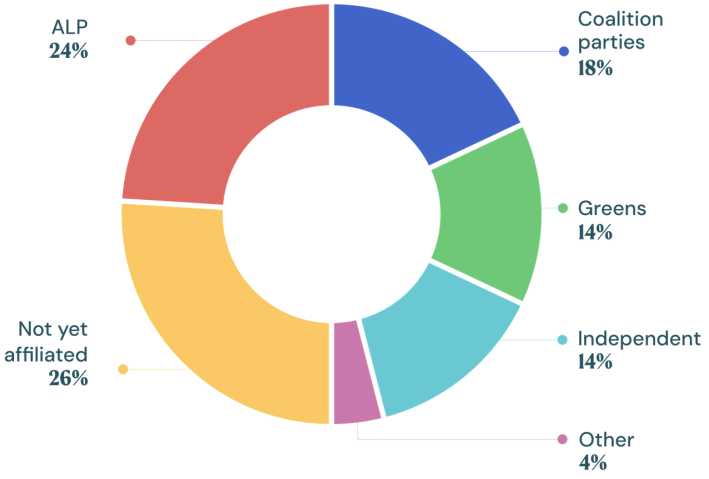
95
electoral successes
at local, state and federal levels of government

261
total electoral runs
by Pathways to Politics alums

36%
success rate

89%
of alums intend to run for office in the next 10 years

NON-PARTISAN



READINESS TO RUN

Pathways to Politics for Women consistently strengthens participant readiness to run for public office. After the program:

- **92% have the knowledge to run**
- **93% have the practical skills to run**
- **74% have the relevant networks and connections to run**

150+
alums have been matched with experienced political mentors for one-to-one guidance

More impact data overleaf ›

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, Adelaide University 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.

RECENT SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- Current politicians - Senator Hon. Katy Gallagher, Dr Helen Haines MP, Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, Senator Hon. Jane Hume, Senator Susan McDonald, Senator Hon. Malarndirri McCarthy, Allegra Spender MP, Jess Wilson MP, Senator Larissa Waters, Senator Hon. Penny Wong
- Former politicians - Dame Jacinda Ardern GNZM, Hon. Sussan Ley
- Experts - Patricia Karvelas, Tracey Spicer AM

INFORMATION AND DOWNLOADS:

- About Pathways to Politics for Women
- Publication: Celebrating 10 Years of Impact
- Video: 10 Years of Pathways to Politics for Women
- Alum profiles
- Data on women in politics
- Quotes from politicians, supporters and alums
- Photos and brand assets

"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

MORE IMPACT DATA:

- 67 alums are currently serving in Australian parliaments and councils - including 7 alums across 5 parties in the Victorian Parliament.
- 28 alums ran in the 2025 federal election, with three elected.
- 120 alums ran in elections across the country in 2024, with a 41% overall success rate.
- Participants reflect a diversity of backgrounds and experiences - 76% of 2025 participants identified with equity groups (including CALD, First Nations, rural and regional, LGBTQIA+, disability)
- 750+ alums nationally

CONTEXT: PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

Sources and further data available on the Pathways to Politics Knowledge Hub

Federal Parliament	49.6%
• House of Reps	46%
• Senate	56.6%
State/Territory Parliaments	45.1% women overall
Local Government	
• VIC	43.2%
• QLD	44%
• TAS	42.5%
• WA	39.6%
• SA	40%
• NSW	40.5%

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FOUNDING PARTNERS

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA

trawalla foundation

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

The University of Melbourne
QUT
UNSW Sydney
Charles Darwin University
Adelaide University
University of Canberra
University of Tasmania
The University of Western Australia