



PATHWAYS TO POLITICS FOR WOMEN

MEDIA KIT

Media contact: Rachel Brown: 0404 416 348 | brown.rl@unimelb.edu.au

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 is celebrating its 10th 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.

More impact data overleaf ►



90 ELECTORAL
SUCCESSSES



120 ALUMS RAN
FOR ELECTION IN
2024



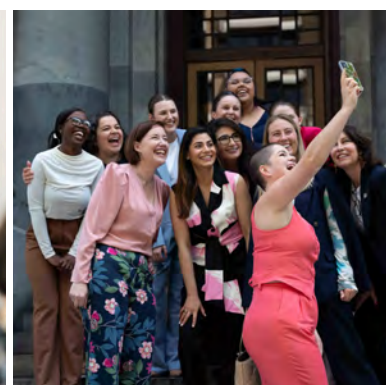
41% ELECTORAL
SUCCESS RATE IN
2024 ELECTIONS



COMMUNITY OF
600+ ALUMS
– WITH 1000
ESTIMATED BY
2026

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





FOUNDING PARTNERS



UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

The University of Melbourne
QUT
UNSW Sydney
Charles Darwin University

The University of Adelaide
University of Canberra
University of Tasmania
The University of Western Australia

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 2019, 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

- 90 electoral successes achieved nationally across the political spectrum at local, state and federal levels of government.
- 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, including:
 - 14 ran in the QLD state election, with three elected.
 - 43 ran in the Victorian local elections, with 20 elected.
 - 22 ran in the NSW local elections, with 11 elected.
 - 26 alums ran in the QLD local elections, with 13 elected.
- 19 alums ran in the 2022 Victorian state election. Six of them, across five political parties, were elected.
- There are more than 600 alums nationally, with an estimated 1000 alums by 2026.
- Our most recent data shows that the majority of alums intend to run for elected office in the next ten years.

CONTEXT: % 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%

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.

INFORMATION AND DOWNLOADS:

- [About 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