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Trust the Women

Women in the Federal Parliament

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## Note

This issue of *Papers on Parliament* brings together a collection of papers given during the first half of 1992 as part of the Senate Department's *Occasional Lecture* series and in conjunction with an exhibition on the history of women in the federal Parliament, entitled, Trust the Women. Also included in this issue is the address given by Senator Patricia Giles at the opening of the Trust the Women exhibition which took place on 27 February 1992. The exhibition was held in the public area at Parliament House, Canberra and will remain in place until the end of June 1993.

Senator Patricia Giles has represented the Australian Labor Party for Western Australia since 1980 having served on numerous Senate committees as well as having been an inaugural member of the World Women Parliamentarians for Peace and, at one time, its President.

Dr Marian Sawyer is Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Canberra, and has written widely on women in Australian society, including, with Marian Simms, *A Woman's Place: Women and Politics in Australia*.

The Hon. Susan Ryan, AO, was the first woman to become a Labor federal minister, serving between 1983 and 1987 in the ministry of the Hon. Bob Hawke, and using her place in the government to bring about far-reaching changes affecting the place of women.

Janine Haines was the first woman to lead any Australian political party when, in 1986, she became leader of the Australian Democrats in the federal Parliament.

The Hon. Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, DBE, was the first woman to sit in the federal cabinet and to head a government department, when, in 1975, she joined the Liberal ministry of the Hon. Malcolm Fraser in which she continued to serve until 1983.

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