

2024

Welcome Pack

The University of Western Australia





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Welcome from our Executive Sponsor

Welcome to the inaugural UWA Pathways to Politics Program.

We are delighted to be hosting this program at The University of Western Australia (UWA), to be managed through the UWA Public Policy Institute and the Centre for Public Value UWA. The Pathway to Politics program directly aligns with UWA's mission by serving the Western Australian community and our aspirations to be leaders in gender equity.

Western Australia has a rich history of women trailblazers in politics. Notable figures include Edith Cowan OBE, the first woman elected to an Australian Parliament in 1921; Hon. Carmen Lawrence AO, the first female Premier of any Australian state or territory in 1990, and Carol Martin OAM who made history as the first Aboriginal woman elected to any Australian parliament in 2001.

Women's representation in parliament is an important issue across the country. Currently in the WA Parliament, women make up 47% of members. This is slightly higher than the national average of 44% across all state and territory parliaments. There is still work to be done, particularly at the local council level where fewer than 40% of councillors are women. At the federal level women represent 45% of parliamentarians.

Gender representation is important at all levels of government and must include women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and First Nations women. Fair and equitable government decision making, policy shaping and design requires appropriate representation and contribution to ensure decisions being made reflect a society that celebrates gender equality and other diversities. Pathways to Politics for Women will provide the next generation of women with the support, resources and encouragement they need to enter politics and effectively navigate the complexities of these leadership roles.

This program has its roots in an initiative pioneered at the University of Melbourne, in collaboration with Women's Leadership Institute and Trawalla Foundation. The valuable continued support of Carol Schwartz AO, CEO of Trawalla Foundation is key to the success of this program.

The 2024 inaugural cohort comprises a group of politically, professionally, and culturally diverse women, and I am impressed by the work that each of you is already doing in your respective communities.

The UWA program is designed and delivered by leading academics, industry experts and panels of politicians. It will provide you with the opportunity to gain the skills and networks to advance your political career and be successful in reaching and thriving in elected office at all levels.



By empowering women to enter politics we strengthen our democracy and pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable society. We look forward to working with you and supporting your political journey.

Kind regards,



Professor Anna Nowak

(MBBS, MEdshp, PhD WAust, FRACP, FAHMS, GAICD)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

The University of Western Australia

Professor Anna Nowak is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) with responsibility for research policy development and leadership of the University's research activities, postgraduate education, industry liaison, intellectual property and commercialisation.

Professor Nowak is a medical oncologist and clinician scientist who completed both her undergraduate medical degree and her PhD in tumour immunology at The University of Western Australia (UWA). A post-doctoral fellowship in clinical trials and quality of life research at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre in Sydney gave her a true bench-to-bedside research perspective. Anna represents her discipline on a number of international research and policy groups in this field. She embraces collaboration and has built longstanding productive partnerships with researchers in psycho-oncology, public health, palliative care, imaging and clinical trials locally, nationally, and internationally.

Anna's research leadership experience includes her role as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Health and Medical Research) at UWA, Associate Dean (Research) of UWA's Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences, Director of the National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases since 2018, and Chair of the national brain cancer collaborative clinical trials group COGNO from 2017 to 2020. She is a member of the Cancer Council WA Board. Anna is passionate about mentoring, collaboration, building a positive culture for research staff and students, and women in science.



About Pathways to Politics for Women

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.

In the last eight years Pathways to Politics has helped hundreds of women to run for office, and achieved 48 electoral successes nationally across the political spectrum and at all levels of government.

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.

The proudly non-partisan programs are uniquely designed in collaboration with eight leading universities across Australia, tailored to each local context. Participants gain first-hand insights from prominent politicians, advisors, speechwriters, and media trainers to give them confidence and clarity about their future in politics in a safe, supportive environment.

Programs are open to women across Australia. Program participation is fully funded through the generous support of philanthropic and university partners.

Pathways to Politics for Women is an initiative of the Trawalla Foundation, Women's Leadership Institute Australia, and the University of Melbourne.

Inspired by the Harvard Kennedy School's "From Harvard Square to the Oval Office" practicum, Pathways to Politics was initiated through the vision of Carol Schwartz AO, Chair of the Trawalla Foundation, who fundamentally believes in the value of more female leaders.

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 Australia and University of Tasmania in 2024. This 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.

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



UWA Advisory Committee



CLARE FEENAN

Advisory Committee Chair and Program Manager



SARAH BUCKLEY

National Co-Convenor Pathways to Politics for Women, CEO Trawalla Foundation



PROFESSOR DAVID GILCHRIST

Director, UWA Centre for Public Value



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PAUL MAGINN

Director, UWA Public Policy Institute



CR KAREN CHAPPEL AM JP

President, WA Local Government Association, Shire President, Morawa



SENATOR DORINDA COX

Australian Greens, Parliament of Australia



HON. MIA DAVIES MLA

National Party Member for Central Wheatbelt, Parliament of Western Australia



EMILY FOGARTY

Executive Officer, Office of
Deputy Vice Chancellor
(Research)



LIZA HARVEY

Former leader of the
Western Australian Liberal
Party, Former Member for
Scarborough



LIZ KERR

Deputy Clerk, Parliament of
Western Australia



AYMEE MASTAGLIA

Regional Manager-WA,
Chartered Accountants
Australia and New Zealand



PAULA RODGERS

CEO, Committee for Perth



DR KATRINA STRATTON MLA

ALP Member for Nedlands,
Parliament of Western
Australia



Key staff



Clare Feenan

Program Manager, Pathways to Politics for Women UWA

Clare Feenan is the Senior Program Manager at the UWA Public Policy Institute and Program Manager for Pathways to Politics for Women UWA. She provides strategic planning, research, and project management for the Institute and is responsible for the Pathways program's curriculum and operations.

Before working at UWA, Clare worked in operations and analytics in the private sector. In previous managerial roles in business and in research she led large teams, implemented change, and reported on theoretical and empirical analysis. Her research outputs relate to human services and are intended to provide tools for advocacy and policy change by providing insight to decision makers.

Clare holds a Bachelor of Science (Statistics) from RMIT University, a Postgraduate Certificate of Business (Economics and Econometrics) from Monash University, and a Master of Economics from The University of Western Australia.

Contact Details

E: clare.feenan@uwa.edu.au

M: 0433 478 782



Professor David Gilchrist

Director, Centre for Public Value UWA

Professor David Gilchrist has worked in and around the human services sector for 30 years. He has held executive roles in, consulted to and been part of the governance team of various charitable human services organisations including in disability services, aged care and child protection. In all of these areas, David has contributed to practice and policy.

Prior to joining the Academe, he was a senior executive in the Parliamentary Services Department with the WA Parliament and assistant auditor general for Western Australia and has



taught at London School of Economics and Portsmouth University in the UK, and Curtin University and Edith Cowan University here in Australia. He was associate dean of the business school at Notre Dame where he was also adjunct professor of Not-for-profit leadership.

David has researched in the areas of nonprofit sustainability, economics and governance and has written over 200 industry reports and papers focusing on key issues related to the sector. David has written, edited or contributed to eight books and is currently chair of Australian Scholarships Limited. David was awarded a meritorious service award by Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand in 2023.

Contact Details

E: david.gilchrist@uwa.edu.au

M: 0404 515 270



Assoc. Prof. Paul Maginn
Director, UWA Public Policy Institute

Associate Professor Paul Maginn is the Director of the UWA Public Policy Institute.

Paul was program coordinator of the Masters of Public Policy Program (Admin and Governance Stream) in 2023 and was the inaugural programme coordinator for the undergraduate/post graduate programmes in Urban and Regional Planning (2007-2020).

He is the author/ editor of 10 books on urban planning, urban policy, geographies and regulation of the sex industry, and Australia/ global suburbanisms.

Paul was Editor-in-Chief of *Urban Policy and Research* from 2014-2023. And, he was co-convenor of the *Australian Cities Research Network* from 2017 to 2021.

Paul is the Chair of the 2024 Australian Political Studies Association National Conference – *The State of Democracy and Politics: Local, Regional and Global*.

Contact Details

E: paul.maginn@uwa.edu.au

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Tarryn Basden

Administrative Officer, UWA Public Policy Institute

Tarryn Basden (she/they) is the Administration Officer at the UWA Public Policy Institute, as well as a seasoned Science Communicator. With a Master of Science Communication, they combine their knowledge, skills, and passion to develop effective communication strategies that engage and inspire others.

Tarryn began their career in conservation education, where they engaged with our next generation, promoting positive conservation attitudes. They then progressed into communication, research, and project management positions within government and private sectors locally and internationally. Their varied background includes experience in mentoring individuals, organising large scale events, implementing nationwide communications strategies, entertaining crowds of hundreds with fun science facts, and even training birds in Brazil.

With a passion for storytelling and a focus on making a difference, Tarryn is all about developing communication strategies that create connections, inspire intrigue, and promote positive behaviours.

Contact Details

E: tarryn.basden@uwa.edu.au

M: 0415 129 142



2024 Program Overview

UNIT 1: Setting the scene

- Introduction & articulating your political vision
- Making the most of the program
- Making the decision to run

UNIT 2: How it's done

- Local government pathways
- Party machines and navigation
- From political vision to stump speech

UNIT 3: How to get there

- Media training
- Campaigning
- Working with community

UNIT 4: Once you're in

- A day in the life: Resilience and integrity
- Policy making and stakeholder engagement
- Handling the budget

UNIT 5: Let's go

- Speeches in parliament
- Graduation



Schedule

DATE & LOCATION	SESSION
<p>Sunday 1 September 5pm – 8pm</p> <p>Including: dinner</p> <p>Location: Institute of Advanced Studies/ UWA Convocation Room</p>	<p>SESSION: INTRODUCTIONS & ICEBREAKERS WORKSHOP Facilitator: Clare Feenan</p> <p>DINNER: GATHER FOODS Nyongar Traditionally Owned catering and event management</p>
<p>UNIT 1: Setting the scene</p> <hr/> <p>Monday 2 September 8am – 4pm</p> <p>Including: morning tea, snack, and lunch</p> <p>Location: Industry Hub 113, Ezone North, UWA Campus Crawley</p>	<p>SESSION 1: WELCOME & CODE OF CONDUCT WORKSHOP Facilitators: Clare Feenan & Dr Meredith Martin</p> <p>SESSION 2: MAKING THE MOST OF THE PROGRAM PANEL Facilitators: Clare Feenan & Dr Meredith Martin Speaker: Bridget Vallence MP, Liberal Member for Evelyn, Victoria</p> <p>SESSION 3: WHAT’S YOUR WAY: POLITICAL VISION AND VALUES WORKSHOP Facilitator: Clare Feenan Speaker: Carmen Lawrence AO, former Premier for Western Australia</p> <p>SESSION 4: MAKING THE DECISION TO RUN PANEL Facilitator: Clare Feenan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Brewer, Liberal candidate for Cottesloe • Senator Fatima Payman, Independent Senator for Western Australia



- Rachel Siewert, former Greens Senator for Western Australia

UNIT 2: How it's done

Tuesday 3 September
8am – 4pm

Including: morning tea, snack,
and lunch

Location: Industry Hub 113,
Ezone North, UWA Campus
Crawley

SESSION 1: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PATHWAYS

WORKSHOP

Facilitators: Clare Feenan & Dr Meredith Martin

Speaker: Cr Karen Chappel AM JP, President WALGA,
Shire of Morawa President

SESSION 2: PARTY MACHINES

PANEL

Facilitator: Assoc. Prof. Paul Maginn

- Hon. Mia Davies MLA, Nationals Member for Central Wheatbelt
- Liza Harvey, Former leader of the Liberal party and member for Scarborough
- Dr Katrina Stratton MLA, Labor Member for Nedlands
- Sophie McNeill, Pre-Selected for Greens Legislative Council

SESSION 2: MOCK PRE-SELECTION

WORKSHOP

Facilitator: Assoc. Prof. Paul Maginn

- Hon. Mia Davies MLA, Nationals Member for Central Wheatbelt
- Liza Harvey, Former leader of the Liberal party and member for Scarborough
- Dr Katrina Stratton MLA, Labor Member for Nedlands
- Sophie McNeill, Pre-Selected for Greens Legislative Council

SESSION 4: THE ART OF SPEECHWRITING

WORKSHOP

Facilitator: Nyree Slatter



UNIT 3: How to get there

Wednesday 4 September
8am – 4pm

Including: morning tea, snack,
and lunch

Location: Industry Hub 113,
Ezone North, UWA Campus
Crawley

SESSION 1: MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP

Facilitators: UWA Media Team

- Jarryd Gardner
- Annelies Gartner
- Simone Hewett
- Liz McGrath

SESSION 2: CAMPAIGNING

Facilitator: Clare Feenan

Speaker: Senator the Hon. Linda Reynolds CSC,
Liberal Senator for Western Australia

SESSION 3: SPEECHWRITING WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP

Facilitator: Nyree Slatter

SESSION 4: WORKING WITH COMMUNITY

PANEL

Facilitator: Clare Feenan

- Carol Adams OAM, former Mayor of Kwinana
- Carol Martin OAM, former Labor Member for Kimberly

UNIT 4: Once you're in

Thursday 5 September
8am – 4pm

Including: morning tea, snack,
and lunch

Location: Learning Studio 111,
Ezone North, UWA Campus
Crawley

SESSION 1: A DAY IN THE LIFE (RESILIENCE & INTEGRITY)

PANEL

Facilitator: Rebecca Turner

- Cr Georgie Carey, Deputy Mayor, Mosman Park
- Hannah Beazley MP, Labor Member for Victoria Park
- Kate Chaney MP, Independent Member for Curtin



**SESSION 2: POLICY MAKING AND STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT**

WORKSHOP

Facilitator: Prof. David Gilchrist

Guest: Carmen Lawrence AO, former Premier for
Western Australia

SESSION 3: HANDLING THE BUDGET

WORKSHOP

Facilitator: Prof Helen Hodgson, Curtin University

Speaker: Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA, Labor Deputy
Premier, State Treasurer

SESSION 3: SPEECHWRITING PRACTISE

PRACTICE AMONGST COHORT

Support: Nyree Slatter

UNIT 5: Let's go

Friday 6 September

8:30 am – 1:30pm

Including: morning tea, lunch
to follow for those available

Location: Parliament of
Western Australia,
4 Harvest Terrance, West Perth

Lunch: The Stables,
888 Hay St, Perth

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Ingrid Cumming

TOUR OF PARLIAMENT

Parliamentary Education Office

COHORT STUMP SPEECHES

Guest Judges

GRADUATION

See separate Briefing Pack for details



Guiding Principles and Code of Conduct

The program provides a safe space for women of diverse backgrounds, professions, cultures and ideologies to fulfill their shared aspiration to pursue public office. Each cohort benefits from the wisdom and extraordinary candour of speakers from all sides of politics.

The **Pathways to Politics Program for Women Guiding Principles**, which are designed to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment for all, underscore multi-partisanship and cultural safety as key tenets of the program:

- Regard, value and recognise the perspectives of others
- Consider and honour differing points of view
- Take full advantage of the rich backgrounds and abilities of all, recognising and valuing differences
- Listen and speak with honesty, openness and respect
- Support open discussion by respecting the confidence of others in accordance with the [Chatham House Rule](#).
- In accepting a place in the Pathways to Politics Program for Women participants agree to abide by the standards of behaviour outlined in the **Code of Conduct** which was included in your letter of offer.

Pathways to Politics for Women provides a safe space for women of diverse backgrounds, professions, cultures and ideologies to fulfill their shared aspiration to pursue public office.



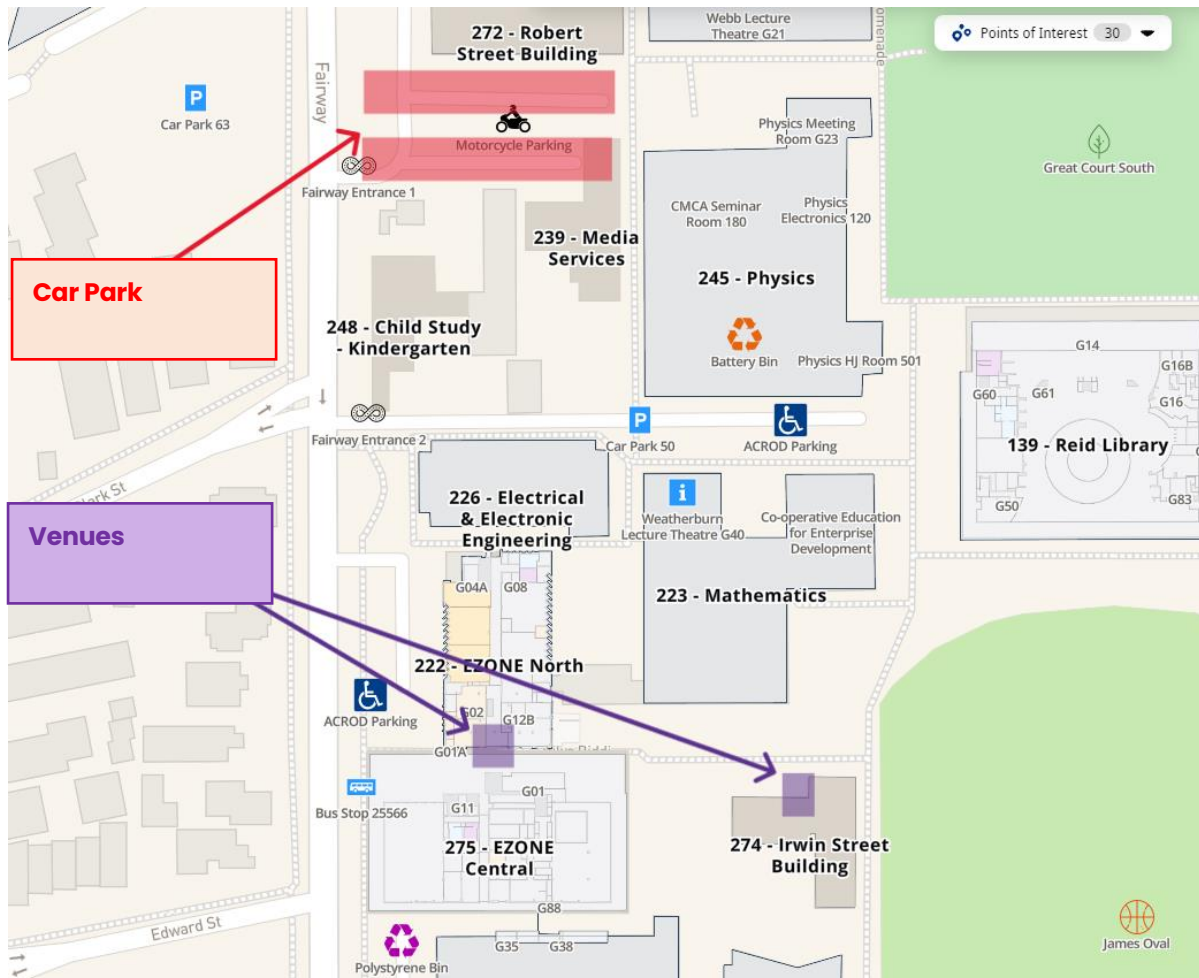
Key Venues

Address

Locations used on UWA campus for the dinner, and week intensive are;

- **Industry Hub 113**, Level 1 of Ezone North, UWA Campus Crawley is where the majority of the intensive week will be held
- **Learning Studio 111**, Level 1 of Ezone North is where Thursday 5 Sept sessions will be held
- **Irwin St Building** (Institute of Advanced Studies Building) is where dinner and workshop on Sunday 1 Sept will be held

Googlemaps is quite good locating buildings **Ezone North** (entrance next to Double R café) and **Institute of Advanced Studies** (entrance north side of building) while on campus.

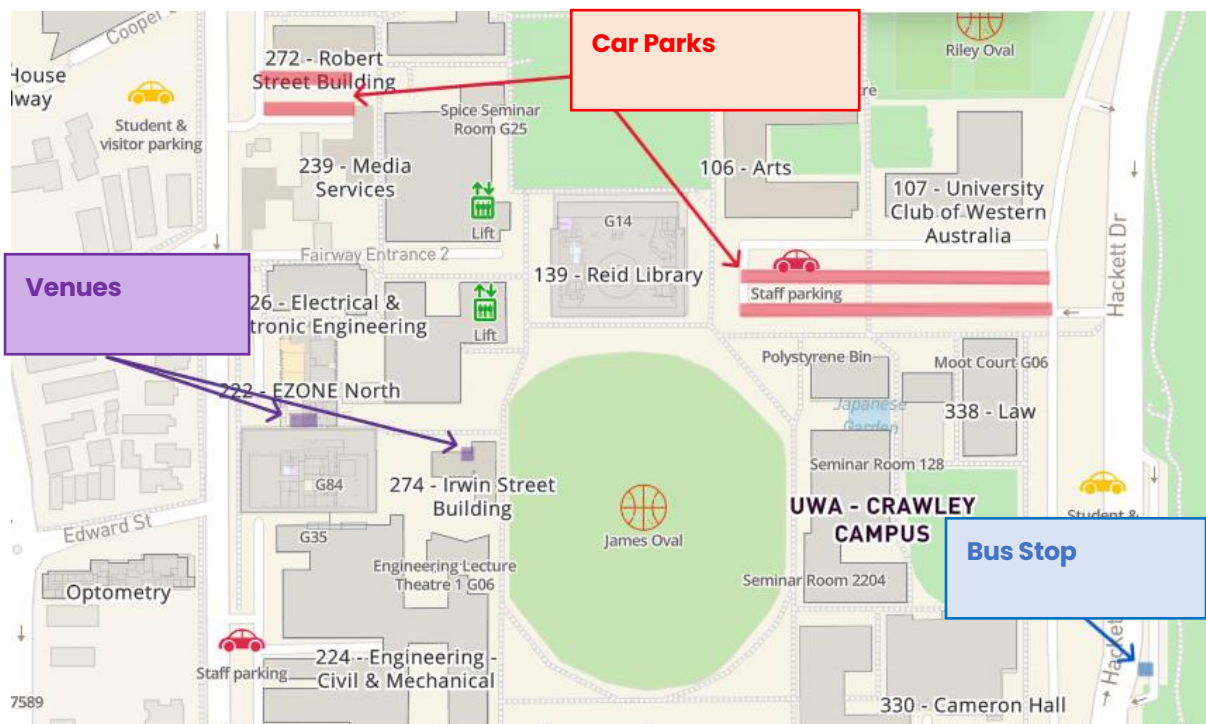




Parking and transport information

For participants driving with parking passes, accessible Red Staff car bays are highlighted and directions on Google Maps can be found searching [Robert Street Building](#). Other staff car parks can be seen on the [UWA Campus Map](#). Parking is free on weekends.

For regional participants staying at Quest Kings Park we recommend catching the free **Purple CAT** bus which leaves from right outside the Quest apartment building and passes by the east-side of campus with the stop highlighted in blue in the below bottom-right corner.



Housekeeping

UniFi Guest WiFi access has been requested for each of you by your email addresses which should have received a password by now. Please connect if you wish to use it. Instructions may be found [here](#).

Meals will be catered throughout the day; and tea, coffee, and water will be available throughout each session.

Each session lasts 1h30min and we encourage participants to make the most of the breaks by socialising and walking as a refresh and leg stretch between the sessions.

Please share feedback for any ways we can further assist you throughout the week intensive and ongoing after the program. We hope to remove as many barriers as possible for participation and encourage a thriving atmosphere.



Graduation Venue



ADDRESS

Parliament of Western Australia
Parliament House | 4 Harvest Terrace | West Perth WA 6005

PARLIAMENT HOUSE PARKING

Please visit City for Perth website or Google maps for a parking location map and costs of on-street and off-street parking available in Perth CBD.

LUNCH

All cohort members will be invited to a celebratory lunch
The Stables | 888 Hay St | Perth WA 6000



Resources

Online Teams Channel

Briefing Packs, bios and further information to support sessions will be available online for you to access before during and after the week intensive to support your preparation and reflection from the program sessions.

Pathways to Politics Knowledge Hub

Our online Knowledge Hub aims to provide women across the political spectrum with practical tools, information and inspiration to run for public office, as well as to amplify thought leadership in the areas of gender parity and political representation.

Visit pathwaystopolitics.org.au/knowledge-hub





Meet our 2024 cohort



Peta Baer

Peta is a young woman with a deep-rooted passion for enhancing the resilience of regional communities, having spent most of her life in these communities, and fostering stronger regional futures. Peta is driven by a desire to ensure that queer, autistic women have greater representation in politics and to inspire others to engage in various levels of government and influential community roles.

Currently, Peta manages her local community center and is an elected member of her local Council. In her spare time, she takes on multiple leadership roles, including Assistant Group Leader for the local Scout Group, Head Coach for the local Gymnastics Club, and is an avid netball and soccer player. Through her involvement in the program, Peta hopes to enhance her leadership and public speaking skills, furthering her political career to effectively champion change, diversity, and acceptance.



Nathalie Bergon

Nathalie Bergon is a passionate advocate for animals, environmental sustainability, and social equity. Her active political journey began when she was elected to the Animal Justice Party WA State Committee in 202 and her subsequent evolution into the WA Deputy State Convenor and a national delegate role deepened her understanding of the necessity for systemic change on a larger scale.

In her professional life at Edith Cowan University, Nathalie has demonstrated strong leadership and strategic thinking, refining international scholarship frameworks and spearheading effective retention programs that have expanded the university's international influence and streamlined operations.

Nathalie is committed to championing policies that advocate for animals, people, and the planet, reflecting the interconnectedness of these causes. Her unique blend of dynamic approach and professional acumen equips her to drive meaningful change. She is excited to join the Pathways



to Politics cohort, eager to contribute her perspective and collaborate with like-minded women dedicated to shaping a more just and sustainable society.



Jenna Denton

As a lifelong regional community member, Jenna has family ties to fishing and farming, and connections to sporting, business, not-for-profit and social service communities. Jenna is a mum, wife, volunteer and professional, and like many regional people she understands the pressures of working, raising kids, and utilising regional services and infrastructure.

Jenna has a professional background in education, business, community development, healthcare and mental health, in leadership, project management, advocacy and research functions. Jenna's exposure to various sectors has broadened her knowledge of local, state and federal responsibilities, and the need to collaborate amongst community and government. After working in the office of an elected Member Jenna's passion for policy and politics grew. Jenna is now a City of Greater Geraldton Councillor, RRR Network Ambassador, and the General Manager of Shine Inc, a not-for-profit organisation supporting girls and young women at risk of disengaging from education.

Jenna has developed a significant network and reputation for contributing to community development initiatives, advocating for equity in relation to community services, economic sustainability and livability within regional, rural and remote areas of WA, whilst enhancing opportunities and inclusion for diverse, young, and vulnerable populations. Jenna is driven by influencing equality, innovation, progressive planning, and solution focused decision making that will improve outcomes for individuals and whole communities.

As a participant in the 2024 Pathways to Politics Program, Jenna seeks to determine her political aspirations, gain a valuable sense of direction to foster a strong campaign and successful election, and contribute to changing the face of politics.



Cr Amanda Dorn

Amanda Dorn is the Licensee of a small business in real estate and runs a property management portfolio. Amanda maintains an optimistic approach to work, there are no problems, only obstacles to overcome. Mastering conflict resolution is a worthy skill. Amanda's business interests differ from her political interests in fighting for animal rights.

Amanda is fighting for sensitive, thoughtful development, to advocate for wildlife corridors, tree canopy, protecting bird habitats. To live in harmony with the natural world and all of the animals that live within. To ensure that all wildlife thrives beside us.

Amanda joined the Animal Justice Party as their core values and philosophy resonated with her own vegan choices. Amanda has run in the last two state and federal elections as an AJP candidate.

Locally, Amanda's political experience came from joining an action/ activist group to save the many kangaroos in the new areas of the City of Swan, specifically Brabham. Amanda was outraged that wildlife was losing their lives and habitat at great speed as the city continued its rapid development.

Her campaign resonated with the many residents, as she went doorknocking, that she was elected and won the seat in the ward of Altone in October 2023.



Hayley Edwards

Hayley is a governance and leadership practitioner with two decades of extensive experience across various sectors, including local government, the military, and emergency services. She serves as a State Councillor at the Governance Institute of Australia (GIA), a Director at FM Health Group Pty Ltd and volunteers at Marine Rescue Rockingham. Hayley is a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia (FGIA) and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), underscoring her disciplined commitment to ethical standards and best practices in governance and leadership.

Hayley's academic achievements and ongoing education are a testament to her commitment to continuous learning and professional growth. Her core competencies span a wide



range, including business management, intergovernmental relations, international relations, strategic planning, risk and audit management, stakeholder engagement, and public speaking. She holds a postgraduate degree in Policy and Politics, a Diploma in Local Government, and a Diploma in Clinical Practice (Paramedic). She is pursuing an MBA at the University of Western Australia (UWA), with a specialisation in Minerals and Energy Management. Her community leadership experience, term in local government, and participation in the Rockingham by-election further highlight her dedication to public service.

Hayley's passion for women's leadership, philanthropy, advocacy, strategic engagement, and community development is not just a list of interests but a driving force that fuels her every action. She aims to significantly impact the community she serves. She cherishes her family and enjoys spending time with her kids, husband, and rescue dog, Peppa.



Fatima Faqiri

Fatima Faqiri is an advocate with a background in Accounting & Finance from Curtin University and high school studies at Australian Islamic College in Perth. She is dedicated to addressing social and local issues and serves on various multicultural advisory groups, focusing on healthy family relationships and issues affecting multicultural communities.

In 2023, Fatima championed the cause of Indigenous Community during the referendum and coordinated Hazaras for Yes campaign in WA while running as a candidate in Local Council Election for the City of Belmont. She has held key roles in various organizations, including Chair of Multilingual Australia, Public Relations Coordinator for Hazara Community of WA, and Treasurer for Sister Project. Additionally, she founded Hazara Women Support Network, and she is also a delegate to Federation of Hazara Council of Australia.

Passionate about creating equitable policies, Fatima aims to leverage her experience and knowledge to drive positive change within her community. Her mantra emphasizes that today's advocacy efforts pave the way for a brighter future for our children, and through her tireless leadership, she continues to make a positive impact on her community.



Diem Hoang

- Diem Hoang Born 1979, Ben Tre, South Vietnam.
- Traditional Wedding 2011 to partner Ashley.
- Two children Kim 10 and Dan 6.
- Bachelor of Arts, English Linguistics and Literature at the University of Social Sciences & Humanities, Saigon City, Vietnam 2001.
- Post Graduate Diploma in Information Technology at Charles Darwin University 2003.
- Currently work part time at Crown casino as a croupier when her partner is home from FIFO work.
- Former Interpreter for the Northern Territory government.
- Diem has been involved in the 2021 Federal Election and the Rockingham By-Election as a volunteer in multiple roles.

Diem's inspiration to apply for this program is to further her knowledge of politics and to meet like-minded people to network with. Her passions include education. Diem changed her life through her education and wishes to see others succeed as she has done.

Maintaining the freedoms of this great country is an important part of Diem's life. Having grown up under Marxist regime in Vietnam, she is well aware of what happens when freedoms are denied to the people of a country.



Rhiannon Italiano

Rhiannon's interest in politics has been shaped by her experiences as a person of Burmese heritage, having grown up with an acute awareness of the impacts of political oppression, failed democracy and the struggle for freedom that occurs elsewhere in the world.

After becoming involved in local community issues, Rhiannon ran as a candidate in the 2023 local government elections. She has since undertaken central roles in other local government and state government election campaigns.

Rhiannon is passionate about sustainability, gender equality, voter participation and having diverse representation at all levels of government. As a registered nurse with a decade of experience working in mental health, Rhiannon also has a



special interest in health and mental health policy and the systems that support the most vulnerable in our community.

Rhiannon is also raising a young daughter and hopes that programs to increase women's participation in politics are no longer necessary by the time her daughter is old enough to run for office.



Zen Mohamad Kassim

Zen is presently employed as a police officer and has been in this career for the past 33 years. After two years being in the job, Zen pursued her career as a specialist detective dealing with counter-violent extremism, sexual assault, murder, rioting, family and domestic violence, juvenile crime, money laundering, foreign offences, and cases involving police officers.

Zen discovered that the support she provided to crime victims was limited by guidelines and policy. Zen made the decision to volunteer her time at her local Member of Parliament (MP) branch, where she meticulously recorded citizens' concerns and grievances, enabling her MP to assist or address more complex issues during the parliament session. Zen saw several positive policy improvements. Zen is studying part-time in Bachelor of Arts – Major in Politics and Major in Sociology. Zen believes she has a lot to offer based on her extensive experience working with and for the community, and she wants to see positive changes. If the opportunity arises, Zen is prepared to run for office and hopes to establish herself as a contender.

Zen's goal is to use this Pathway to Politics program as a stepping stone to transition from her policing career to a politician.



Georgina Ker

Georgina has lived in Boorloo (Perth) her whole life and has been interested in politics since an early age, with influences including a father in local government, well-known ALP & local politician Jack Marks as a next-door neighbour and a high school fascination with Gough Whitlam.

As a working mum of four children (plus two bonus kids), including an autistic daughter, Georgina is a passionate



feminist and social justice advocate. Her areas of interest include active transport, accessible schooling and the environment. Georgina has three degrees from Curtin University, including an MBA, all completed while juggling parenting, study and work. She works full-time at the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre as Manager, Application Services, volunteers for various organisations including her local school P&C, and is a member of Westcycle and City of Bayswater committees relating to active transport.

Georgina has run unsuccessfully for local government in the past and hopes to learn skills and confidence from this program to run again in the future.



Mamta Kochhar

Mamta Kochhar is an educator and founder of United in Diversity, a nonprofit promoting social cohesion and migrant integration. Originally from India, she moved to Australia in 2002. Since transitioning to adult education in 2010, Mamta has been a lecturer at South Metropolitan TAFE.

Mamta combines her professional expertise in teaching English to migrants with volunteer efforts to help them integrate into the broader community. Passionate about providing migrants with opportunities to contribute meaningfully to society, she advocates for customized training and employment programs tailored to an increasingly multicultural Australia.

With over six years of experience in asset-based community development, Mamta is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion. She excels in building positive collaborations, managing partnerships, and capacity building. In 2020, she received the Auspire Community Citizen's Award by the City of Canning and is participating in Auspire Multicultural Leadership Program in 2024.

Mamta serves as Vice President of the newly formed Parkwood Labour Branch. She is a mother of two sons and engages in various community initiatives to foster safe, respectful, and inclusive communities. Through the UWA Pathways to Politics program, Mamta aims to gain the skills and knowledge to run for office, focusing on grassroots initiatives that empower women and encourage positive intercultural interactions for a more cohesive society.



Erin Leahy

Erin has worked in State and Commonwealth Government across several agencies with a particular interest in Land Activation and Divestment and Business Development for First Nations people to assist in social, cultural, environmental, and sustainable economic growth. She has been involved in multiple Reconciliation Action Plans, LGBTIQ+ Networks, and Diversity and Inclusion Committees in the Public Sector. Erin has considerable experience in the Insurance and Broking Sector and is a mixed media, hobby visual artist. She enjoys Community engagement at the grassroots level and working towards contributing to positive social change. Erin has previously run in local Council elections and is a prior Vice chair to a LGBTIQ+ Non-Profit organisation. She is a strong advocate for Diversity, Equality, Inclusion, Social Justice and Mental Health. Erin loves 80s music, being on Country, yum cha, musicals and conceptual art.



Lou Lockyer

Karen - also known as Lou born and raised in the Pilbara currently living in Newman WA.

Mum of 3 young almost adults have lived in worked in a small town that thrived on community spirit. Through the years became involved in local sporting associations and took on leadership roles throughout career in the mining industry.

Passions including helping community and soaking up the beautiful landscapes of the Pilbara and most importantly spending time with family. A proud Banjima Ngarluma woman being an advocate for the Indigenous community has been an ongoing priority and continues to be on the forefront of her aspirations.



Tess Louise

Tess Louise is a sex worker with seven years of experience. She has worked in brothels across so-called Australia, and briefly performed in adult films. However, her primary experience is in private full-service sex work.

As a representative for Decrim WA, Tess advocates for the full decriminalisation of sex work. This reform involves removing all criminal offences related to sex work and ensuring sex workers have the same labour rights and protections as other workers.

Tess hosts the "It's So Hard" podcast, which explores sex work and intersecting movements, and she is a Peer-Educator at Magenta, an organisation that offers an anonymous clinic to sex workers and educates healthcare providers about sex work.

Through her roles, Tess aims to challenge stigmas and foster solidarity. In the future, Tess hopes that relevant sex workers will be better positioned to contribute to discussions and policies that impact them or relate to their expertise.



Mikayla Love

Mikayla Love, a compassionate young Councillor for the City of Busselton, has triumphed over adversity to become a pillar of her community. Having firsthand experience of domestic violence and its effects, Mikayla champions increased support and education for affected individuals, emphasising respect, integrity, and empathy. Her recent journey into parenthood has further ignited her passion for ensuring that Busselton and the South West region thrive for future generations.

Having faced and overcome financial hurdles and family circumstances, Mikayla pursued tertiary education in her 20s, driving her desire to advocate for broader educational opportunities in her region. Having experienced social housing and housing insecurity firsthand, she is also enthusiastic about improving housing accessibility for all.

As an elected member, Mikayla brings a fresh and inclusive perspective. She seeks to amplify the voices of marginalised individuals and is passionate about addressing the under-



representation of younger females from regional areas in politics. Mikayla strives to create a more diverse and inclusive political landscape. Her multifaceted role has deepened her understanding of local, regional, and state-level issues, empowering her to advocate for her community's needs. Mikayla is committed to fostering positive change and creating a brighter future for Busselton and the wider South West region.



Renée McLennan

Renée recognises that she is fortunate to have had many privileges and opportunities and wants to ensure that she uses these to live a life of impact. Her passion for enhancing the health and well-being of communities and our planet shapes her decisions about where she invests her energy and her life direction. Now as a mother, Renée is even more acutely aware of the need to do all that she can to ensure the world her children and future generations inhabit is one where there are strong connections between people and with our natural environment.

This year Renée and her family are making the most of nine months of long service and undertaking a "big lap" of Australia. In order to travel she resigned from her position as a local government elected member, where she had served her community for the past eight years as an independent Councillor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor.

Upon returning home later this year, Renée will consider what future opportunities might allow her to best contribute to continuing to shape a positive future with her community.



Jen McRae

Jennifer McRae was born in 1972 and is an adopted person from the forced adoption era. She grew up on a farm near the Porongrups, attending school in Albany.

After completing her nursing degree in 1994 Jennifer embarked on a career as a remote area nurse working with Indigenous communities across WA, NT, QLD. After a decade away, she returned home to Albany and enjoyed 14 years as a clinical community and school health nurse. In 2019, she



established the Albany chapter of national literacy support program *StoryDogs* & continues to volunteer weekly.

Jennifer led a small grassroots group of survivors to secure the WA 2023-2024 parliamentary inquiry into past 'forced' adoption practices. It took 2 years of lobbying to finally secure the investigation, with help from the WA National Party. The report and recommendations are expected later this year.

She is the co-creator and President and of WA's only adoptee peer led support group (Albany). This experience has inspired Jennifer to explore the potential to broaden her capacity to advocate for Western Australians as a parliamentarian.

Married with 3 teenagers, Jennifer's spare time is spent gardening, hiking and scraping paint off the old doorways of her 1850's home 'Camfield House'.



Dr Bronwyn Milkins

Dr. Bronwyn Milkins is a registered psychologist with PhD and a Masters degree in Psychology. Throughout her professional career, Bronwyn has provided psychological treatment to individuals with severe mental illness and conducted research on intimate partner violence. She has a long-standing commitment to the wellbeing of the community, having volunteered extensively with marginalised groups, delivered mental health workshops across Western Australia and established peer-support programs.

Bronwyn has been recognised for her volunteer work as a Finalist for WA Young Person of the Year (Community Leadership) and Winner of the Act-Belong-Commit award. Her motivation to participate in the Pathways to Politics program stems from her desire to make a positive impact on the lives of Australians.

With experience as a Director of a national psychology organisation, she looks forward to learning how to drive meaningful change in her political journey. She is dedicated to addressing the issues affecting everyday Australians, including mental health, disability, cost-of-living, and climate change.



Brooke O'Donnell

Brooke O'Donnell is a proud Palyku Aboriginal woman from Yandeyarra in the Pilbara region who has lived on Perth, Boorloo Wadjuk Noongar land for the past 40 years, Perth and describes herself as a problem-solver who is undeterred by obstacles when pursuing her goals and dreams, and someone who likes to lead by example. For the past eight years, Brooke has been the first Aboriginal Deputy Mayor and Councillor to effectively govern the City of Kalamunda. Brooke previously worked as a Social Worker in the Department of Justice and Communities, striving for Social Justice.

Brooke is a qualified Social Worker and has a master's in business administration with specialist work in Law/ Environment. She has worked for Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation as Heritage Manager to ensure that all proponents work on Yamatji country do not compromise on Cultural Heritage and the free, prior and informed consent is paramount. Brooke is passionate about ensuring Aboriginal engagement and partnerships are built through all areas of Western Australia.

In Brooke's downtime, she performs weddings as a Celebrant, but she prefers spending time with her two children and husband, particularly in their caravan on their block in Mount Barker.



Kala Senathirajah

Kala Senathirajah, a water industry engineer, has made significant contributions to the engineering profession. Notably, she focuses on enhancing water security and quality through sustainable, place-based solutions. Having worked locally and internationally with private sector, governments, NGOS and academia, she has extensive experience throughout the water supply cycle. Her research centered on strategies to reduce and remove microplastics from water supplies.

Kala also actively volunteers with Engineers Australia and the Australian Water Association, sharing her expertise and passion for water management and environmental sustainability. Her commitment to professional development and knowledge exchange underscores her dedication to advancing the field and ensuring sustainable outcomes for



all. Recently named the Western Australia Professional Engineer of the Year, her work exemplifies the pivotal role engineers play in advocating for community well-being and the environment.



Ellen Smith

Coming from a scientific background, Ellen learnt early in her career the importance of being able to translate research and analysis into practical on-ground solutions. This led her into public policy, a space in which Ellen felt she could deliver meaningful change to regional Western Australians based on sound scientific reasoning. Ellen's focus has always been on understanding the issues which face our communities and solving these problems through innovative solutions.

Having worked for the Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development and seen the level of influence and change that can be brought about by someone who is passionate and driven, Ellen aspires to achieve the same. Regional WA is a place of enormous community spirit, connection to the environment, and should be seen for the endless opportunities it provides. Having lived across regional WA her whole life, Ellen is passionate about ensuring regional people receive the same opportunities as their metropolitan counterparts.

Ellen is the Chief Business Development Officer at Nyamba Buru Yawuru, an Aboriginal corporation representing the Yawuru people of Broome. She holds a Bachelor of Aquatic Science and Coastal Zone Management, a Master of Public Policy and Management, and is an alumnus of the National Seafood Industry Leadership Program (2012), CEDA Copland Leadership Program (2019), and the Australian Rural Leadership Program (2022).

Ellen is a Board Member of the Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network of WA, Board Member on the North Regional TAFE Governing Council, and a Councillor for the Shire of Broome.

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