



The long and the short of it: some statistics on the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

As at 31 December 2023, as amended

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Legislative Assembly firsts

First Speaker

David Prowse elected 11 May 1989

First Chief Minister

Rosemary Follett elected 11 May 1989

First Leader of the Opposition

Trevor Kaine elected 11 May 1989

First Indigenous member

Chris Bourke declared elected 1 June 2011

First Indigenous minister

Chris Bourke appointed 23 November 2011

First member suspended

Michael Moore¹ 7 December 1989

First Australian parliament with majority women members

Ninth Assembly 31 October 2016²

Remonstrance motions moved

Remonstrance—*Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* [17 June 2009](#)

Remonstrance—Democratic rights of citizens of the ACT [16 August 2018](#)

Ngunnawal language Acknowledgement to Country

Speaker—First Acknowledgement of Country spoken in Ngunnawal language 30 July 2020

Speakers

Longest serving Speakers

Member	Term
Joy Burch	7 years, 2 months, 1 day ^{3,4}
Wayne Berry	6 years, 11 months, 25 days ⁵
Greg Cornwell	6 years, 8 months, 4 days ⁶

¹ For failing to signify his vote (standing order 160)

² First sitting day of the Ninth Assembly, 13 women members sworn in out of 25 members (52%). The number of women members increased to 14 out of 25 (56%) after the death Steve Dospot on 25 November 2017 who was replaced by Candice Burch. The number of women returned to 13 out of 25 (52%) with the resignation of Meegan Fitzharris who was replaced by Deepak Raj Gupta on 23 July 2019.

³ From 31 October 2016

⁴ As at 31 December 2023

⁵ 12 November 2001 to 5 November 2008

⁶ 9 March 1995 to 12 November 2001

Shortest serving Speakers

David Prowse 2 years, 10 months, 17 days⁷

Speaker who has named most members

Wayne Berry⁸

Chief Ministers

Oldest member to be elected Chief Minister

Trevor Kaine 61 years, 9 months, 19 days

Oldest serving Chief Minister

Trevor Kaine 63 years, 3 months, 21 days

Youngest members to be elected Chief Minister

Member	Age
Kate Carnell	39 years, 9 months, 10 days
Rosemary Follett	41 years, 1 month, 15 days
Katy Gallagher	41 years, 1 month, 29 days

Longest serving Chief Ministers

Member	Term
Jon Stanhope	9 years, 6 months, 1 day ⁹
Andrew Barr	9 years, 21 days ^{10,11}
Kate Carnell	5 years, 7 months, 9 days ¹²

Shortest serving Chief Minister

Gary Humphries 1 year, 26 days¹³

Chief Minister that served separate terms

Rosemary Follett:

First Term	6 months, 25 days ¹⁴
Second Term	3 years, 9 months, 4 days ¹⁵

⁷ 11 May 1989 to 27 March 1992

⁸ During his period as Speaker, Wayne Berry named members 12 times

⁹ 12 November 2001 to 12 May 2011

¹⁰ From 11 December 2014

¹¹ As at 31 December 2023

¹² 9 March 1995 to 17 October 2000

¹³ 18 October 2000 to 12 November 2011

¹⁴ 11 May 1989 to 5 December 1989

¹⁵ 6 June 1991 to 9 March 1995

Chief Minister that lost seat at election

Nil

Chief Ministers suspended

Jon Stanhope¹⁶ 20 August 2008

Deputy Chief Ministers

Longest serving Deputy Chief Minister

Yvette Berry 7 years, 2 months^{17,18}

Shortest serving Deputy Chief Minister

Trevor Kaine 18 days¹⁹

Ministers

Youngest members to become a minister

Male Member	Age
Simon Corbell	30 years, 11 months, 24 days
Gary Humphries	31 years, 5 months, 8 days
Chris Steel	32 years, 3 months, 12 days
Female Member	Age
Katy Gallagher	32 years, 9 months, 6 days
Tara Cheyne	33 years, 10 months, 6 days
Suzanne Orr	37 years, 6 months, 21 days

Oldest members to become a minister

Member	Age
Trevor Kaine	61 years, 9 months and 29 days
Ted Quinlan	59 years, 2 months, 7 days
Mick Gentleman	58 years, 11 months, 7 days

¹⁶ For persistently and wilfully disregarding the authority of the Chair

¹⁷ From 1 November 2016

¹⁸ As at 31 December 2023

¹⁹ 31 January 1997 to 17 February 1997

Longest serving ministers

Member	Term
Andrew Barr	17 years, 8 months, 26 days ^{20,21}
Simon Corbell	14 years, 11 months, 19 days ²²
Jon Stanhope	9 years, 6 months, 3 day ²³

Shortest serving ministers

Member	Term
Ellnor Grassby	6 months, 20 days ²⁴
Paul Whalan	6 months, 20 days ²⁵
David Lamont	10 months, 25 days ²⁶

Portfolios

Longest serving Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs²⁷

Jon Stanhope	6 years, 6 months, 9 days ²⁸
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Shortest serving Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Joy Burch	6 months, 8 days ²⁹
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Longest serving Minister for the Arts³⁰

Bill Wood	6 years, 8 months, 13 days ³¹
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Shortest serving Minister for the Arts

Rosemary Follett	12 days ³²
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Longest serving Attorney-General

Simon Corbell	10 years, 6 months, 3 days ³³
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²⁰ From 6 April 2006

²¹ As at 31 December 2023

²² 13 November 2001 to 31 October 2016

²³ 13 November 2001 to 15 May 2011

²⁴ 16 May 1989 to 5 December 1989

²⁵ 16 May 1989 to 5 December 1989

²⁶ 13 April 1994 to 9 March 1995

²⁷ There were several periods from 1989 to 2004 when there was no ministerial title for this portfolio area

²⁸ 4 November 2004 to 15 May 2011

²⁹ 6 May 2011 to 23 November 2011

³⁰ There were several periods in 1989 and from 1998 to 2000 when there was no ministerial title for this portfolio area

³¹ Two periods 18 June 1991 to 9 March 1995 (3 years, 8 months, 20 days) and 13 November 2001 to 4 November 2004 (2 years, 11 months, 23 days)

³² 7 June 1991 to 18 June 1991

³³ 20 April 2006 to 31 October 2016

Shortest serving Attorney-General

Trevor Kaine 18 days³⁴

Longest serving Minister for Community Services³⁵

Rachel Stephen-Smith 4 years, 11 months, 3 days³⁶

Shortest serving Minister for Community Services

Member	Term
Trevor Kaine	9 days ³⁷
Craig Duby	9 days ³⁸

Longest serving Minister for Disability³⁹

Joy Burch 4 years, 8 months, 29 days⁴⁰

Shortest serving Minister for Disability

Chris Bourke 9 months, 10 days⁴¹

Longest serving Minister for Education

Yvette Berry 7 years, 2 months^{42,43}

Shortest serving Minister for Education

Trevor Kaine 9 days⁴⁴

Longest serving Minister for the Environment⁴⁵

Simon Corbell 7 years, 11 months, 17 days⁴⁶

Shortest serving Minister for the Environment

Gary Humphries 3 years, 17 days⁴⁷

³⁴ Two periods 5 December 1989 to 13 December 1989 (9 days) and 29 May 1991 to 6 June 1991 (9 days)

³⁵ There were several periods from 1995 to 2000 and 2001 to 2002 when there was no ministerial title for this portfolio area

³⁶ Two periods, 1 November 2016 to 26 August 2018 (1 year, 9 months, 26 days) and 4 November 2020 to 11 December 2023 (3 years, 1 month, 8 days)

³⁷ 5 December 1989 to 13 December 1989

³⁸ 29 May 1991 to 6 June 1991

³⁹ There were several periods from 1989 to 2002, in 2011 and 2012 when there was no ministerial title for this portfolio area

⁴⁰ Two periods, 1 November 2009 to 15 May 2011 (1 year, 6 months, 15 days) and 9 November 2012 to 22 January 2016 (3 years, 2 months, 14 days)

⁴¹ 22 January 2016 to 31 October 2016

⁴² 1 November 2016 to 31 December 2023

⁴³ As at 31 December 2024

⁴⁴ 5 December 1989 to 13 December 1989

⁴⁵ There were several periods from 1989 to 1991, 1998 to 2002 and 2006 to 2007 when there was no ministerial title for this portfolio area

⁴⁶ 10 November 2008 to 31 October 2016

⁴⁷ 15 March 1995 to 31 March 1998

Longest serving Minister for Health

Katy Gallagher 8 years, 7 months, 16 days⁴⁸

Shortest serving Minister for Health

Trevor Kaine 9 days⁴⁹

Longest serving Minister for Multicultural Affairs⁵⁰

Joy Burch 5 years, 2 months, 15 days⁵¹

Shortest serving Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Yvette Berry 1 year, 9 months, 11 days⁵²

Longest serving Minister for Transport and City Services⁵³

Chris Steel 5 years, 4 months, 5 days^{54,55}

Shortest serving Minister for Transport and City Services

Simon Corbell 6 months, 8 days⁵⁶

Longest serving Minister for Planning

Mick Gentleman 9 years, 5 months⁵⁷

Shortest serving Minister for Planning

Gary Humphries 3 years, 17 days⁵⁸

Longest serving Minister for Police⁵⁹

Simon Corbell 10 years, 6 months, 2 days⁶⁰

Shortest serving Minister for Police

Brendan Smyth 10 months, 29 days⁶¹

⁴⁸ 20 April 2006 to 10 December 2014

⁴⁹ 5 December 1989 to 13 December 1989

⁵⁰ There were several periods from 1989 to 1994 and 1995 to 2006 when there was no ministerial title for this portfolio area

⁵¹ 1 November 2009 to 20 January 2015

⁵² 21 January 2015 to 31 October 2016

⁵³ This portfolio title has changed several times since 1989

⁵⁴ 27 August 2018 to 31 December 2023

⁵⁵ As at 31 December 2023

⁵⁶ 16 May 2011 to 23 November 2011

⁵⁷ Two periods 7 July 2014 to 10 December 2014 (5 months, 4 days) and 15 December 2014 to 11 December 2023 (8 years, 11 months, 27 days)

⁵⁸ 15 March 1995 to 31 March 1998

⁵⁹ There were several periods from 1989 to 1995 and 1998 to 2000 when there was no ministerial title for this portfolio area

⁶⁰ 20 April 2006 to 31 October 2016

⁶¹ 15 December 2000 to 12 November 2001

Longest serving Minister for Sport⁶²

Andrew Barr 8 years, 2 months, 13 days⁶³

Shortest serving Minister for Sport

David Lamont 10 months, 25 days⁶⁴

Longest serving Treasurer

Andrew Barr 12 years, 6 months^{65,66}

Shortest serving Treasurer

Trevor Kaine 1 year, 6 months, 2 days⁶⁷

Leaders of the Opposition**Longest serving Leader of the Opposition**

Zed Seselja 5 years, 28 days⁶⁸

Shortest serving Leader of the Opposition

Craig Duby 1 day⁶⁹

Leaders of the Opposition that served separate terms

Trevor Kaine:

First Term 6 months, 25 days⁷⁰

Second Term 16 days⁷¹

Third Term 6 months, 25 days⁷²

Fourth Term 1 year, 26 days⁷³

Rosemary Follett:

First Term 1 year, 6 months, 2 days⁷⁴

Second Term 11 months, 26 days⁷⁵

⁶² There were several periods from 1989 to 1991, 1998 to 2001, in 2004 and 2005 when there was no ministerial title for this portfolio area

⁶³ 20 April 2006 to 6 July 2014

⁶⁴ 13 April 1994 to 9 March 1995

⁶⁵ From 1 July 2011

⁶⁶ As at 31 December 2023

⁶⁷ 5 December 1989 to 6 June 1991

⁶⁸ Three periods as Leader of the Opposition, 13 December 2007 to 18 October 2008 (10 months, 6 days), 5 November 2008 to 20 October 2012 (3 years, 11 months, 16 days), 6 November 2012 to 11 February 2013 (3 months, 6 days)

⁶⁹ 21 June 1991

⁷⁰ 11 May 1989 to 5 December 1989

⁷¹ 6 June 1991 to 21 June 1991

⁷² 22 July 1991 to 15 February 1992

⁷³ 27 March 1992 to 21 April 1993

⁷⁴ 5 December 1989 to 6 June 1991

⁷⁵ 9 March 1995 to 5 March 1996

Gary Humphries:

First Term	1 month, 2 days ⁷⁶
Second Term	1 year, 14 days ⁷⁷

Leaders of the Opposition suspended

Member	Date
Trevor Kaine	19 August 1992 ⁷⁸
Wayne Berry	3 December 1997 ⁷⁹
Bill Stefaniak	30 May 2007 ⁸⁰
Elizabeth Lee	1 June 2022 ⁸¹

Members

Youngest people elected

Female Member	Age
Roslyn Dundas	22 years, 11 months, 9 days
Laura Nuttall	24 years, 27 days
Candice Burch	29 years, 2 months, 17 days
Male Member	Age
Alistair Coe	24 years, 9 months, 21 days
Michael Pettersson	25 years, 5 months, 24 days
Simon Corbell	26 years, 1 month, 20 days

Oldest people elected

Female Member	Age
Mary Porter	62 years, 2 months, 23 days
Caroline Le Couteur	56 years, 6 months, 16 days
Deb Foskey	54 years, 11 months, 18 days

⁷⁶ 21 June 1991 to 22 July 1991

⁷⁷ 12 November 2001 to 25 November 2002

⁷⁸ For refusing to withdraw offensive words

⁷⁹ For disorderly conduct

⁸⁰ For persistently and wilfully disregarding the authority of the chair

⁸¹ For persistently and wilfully disregarding the authority of the chair

Male Member	Age
Val Jeffrey	81 years, 7 months, 24 days
Lou Westende	66 years, 3 months, 22 days
Peter Cain	65 years, 11 months, 19 days

Members serving the longest term

Member	Term
Simon Corbell	19 years, 9 months, 7 days
Wayne Berry	19 years, 5 months, 11 days
Vicki Dunne	18 years, 11 months, 13 days
Brendan Smyth	18 years, 3 months, 27 days

Member serving the shortest term

Val Jeffrey	2 months, 16 days
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Members suspended the most

Member	No of times suspended
Wayne Berry	5 times
Vicki Dunne	4 times
Jeremy Hanson	4 times
Dennis Stevenson	3 times

Member who has crossed the floor

Wayne Berry⁸²

Member who had the longest total periods of leave granted

Member	Combined periods of leave
Giulia Jones	75 days ⁸³
Mary Porter	45 days ⁸⁴
Simon Corbell	30 days ⁸⁵

⁸² During debate on the Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2004 debated on 3 March 2004 (after midnight on sitting day of 2 March 2004). Wayne Berry crossed the floor on a vote for an amendment to a clause of the bill that was moved by Bill Stefaniak.

⁸³ 19 sitting days (Eighth Assembly), 37 sitting days (Ninth Assembly), 19 sitting days (Tenth Assembly)

⁸⁴ 9 sitting days (Sixth Assembly), 20 sitting days (Seventh Assembly), 16 sitting days (Eighth Assembly)

⁸⁵ 1 day (Fourth Assembly), 9 days (Fifth Assembly), 9 days (Sixth Assembly), 3 days (Seventh Assembly), 8 days (Eighth Assembly)

Member who had the longest period of sittings without leave

Member	Total sitting days
Wayne Berry	812 days
Andrew Barr	435 days
Kerrie Tucker	376 days

Members who have become federal members or senators

Annette Ellis
Gary Humphries
Katy Gallagher
Zed Seselja

Member who has been member of another Australian Parliament prior to becoming an MLA

Brendan Smyth⁸⁶
Bill Wood⁸⁷

Member who has died in office

Steve Doszpot

Members who have died since leaving office

Terry Connolly
Helen Cross
Deb Foskey
Jayson Hinder
Val Jeffrey
Trevor Kaine
Hector Kinloch
Lou Westende

⁸⁶ Member for Canberra—Commonwealth House of Representatives (1995-96)

⁸⁷ Member for Cook—Queensland (1969-72), Member for Barron River—Queensland (1972-74)

Number of crossbench members elected⁸⁸

Assembly	Number
First Assembly	8
Second Assembly	3
Third Assembly	4
Fourth Assembly	4
Fifth Assembly	2
Sixth Assembly	1
Seventh Assembly	4
Eighth Assembly	1
Ninth Assembly	2
Tenth	6

Women in Parliament

First woman to be elected Speaker

Roberta McRae OAM declared elected 27 March 1992

First woman to be elected Deputy Speaker

Roberta McRae OAM elected 9 March 1995

First woman to be elected Chief Minister

Rosemary Follett elected 11 May 1989

First women elected

Rosemary Follett

Ellnor Grassby

Carmel Maher

Robyn Nolan

⁸⁸ Crossbench members at the declaration of polls after each election, changes during an Assembly term are not included.

Percentage of women elected

Assembly	Number	Percentage
First Assembly	4/17	23.5%
Second Assembly	6/17	35%
Third Assembly	5/17	29% ⁸⁹
Fourth Assembly	2/17	12%
Fifth Assembly	7/17	41%
Sixth Assembly	6/17	35%
Seventh Assembly	7/17	41%
Eighth Assembly	6/17	35%
Ninth Assembly	13/25	52% ^{90,91}
Tenth Assembly	14/25	56% ⁹²

Number of female Speakers

3/7 43%

Number of female Chief Ministers

3/7 43%

Most female ministers in Cabinet

Assembly	Number	Percentage
Tenth Assembly—Barr Ministry	5/9	56%
First Assembly—Follett Ministry	2/4	50%
Ninth Assembly—Barr Ministry	3/7	43% ⁹³

Legislation

First government bill agreed to

Supply Bill 1989-90⁹⁴

First private members' bill agreed to

Police Offences (Amendment) Bill 1989 [No 2]⁹⁵

⁸⁹ This became 7/17 (41%) following the filling of a number of casual vacancies during the Third Assembly

⁹⁰ This became 14/25 (56%) following the filling of a casual vacancy during the Ninth Assembly

⁹¹ Returned to 13/25 (52%) following the filling of a second casual vacancy during the Ninth Assembly

⁹² This became 13/25 (52%) following the filling of a casual vacancy during the Tenth Assembly

⁹³ This became 3/8 (37%) with the appointment of an additional minister during the Ninth Assembly

⁹⁴ Introduced by Rosemary Follett on 1 June 1989 and passed on 27 June 1989

⁹⁵ Introduced by Bill Stefaniak on 22 August 1989 and passed on 24 August 1989

Most bills passed in one year

127 1997

Smallest number of bills passed in one year

26 2022

Committees**Most committee chairs from the Crossbench in an Assembly**11⁹⁶ 1st Assembly**Most committee chairs from the Opposition in an Assembly**11⁹⁷ 1st and 3rd Assembly**Most committee reports presented in a year**69⁹⁸ 1994**Lowest number of committee reports presented in a year**

10 1989

Elections**Smallest vote margin to win a seat**Ted Quinlan (ALP) defeating Marion Reilly (ALP) by 23 votes⁹⁹**Government with the largest majority**

Government	Number of seats
First Assembly—Kaine Government	10 of 17 ¹⁰⁰
Sixth Assembly—Stanhope Government	9 of 17 ¹⁰¹

Government with the smallest majority

First Assembly—Follett Government 5 of 17 seats

Party which has been in government the greatest amount of timeAustralian Labor Party—22 years, 1 month, 20 days^{102,103}

⁹⁶ This total includes chairs of committees which had more than one chair from different parties throughout the duration of the committee

⁹⁷ This total includes chairs of committees which had more than one chair from different parties throughout the duration of the committee

⁹⁸ There are 21 reports presented by the Scrutiny of Bills and Subordinate Legislation Committee included in this total

⁹⁹ 1998

¹⁰⁰ Majority of seven Members

¹⁰¹ Majority of one over the Liberal Party and one Green

¹⁰² From 12 November 2001

¹⁰³ As at 31 December 2023

Turnover of members at election

Assembly	Number ¹⁰⁴	Percentage
Second Assembly	7/17	41%
Third Assembly	5/17	29%
Fourth Assembly	5/17	29%
Fifth Assembly	6/17	35%
Sixth Assembly	5/17	29%
Seventh Assembly	8/17	47%
Eighth Assembly	4/17	24%
Ninth Assembly	12/25	48%
Tenth Assembly	8/25	32%

Sittings

Most sitting days in a year

54 days 1991

Smallest number of sitting days in a year

28 days 2016¹⁰⁵

Longest sitting

15 hours¹⁰⁶ 2006

Shortest sitting

3 minutes 10 October 2000

Most divisions in a year

156 2011

Least number of divisions in a year

40 2020

Latest time of rising

5 am 25 August 2006

Most sittings after midnight in a year

7 2004

¹⁰⁴ This represents the number of members not re-elected or members who didn't contest the election

¹⁰⁵ Election year

¹⁰⁶ Sitting began at 10.30 am on 24 August 2006 and adjourned at 5 am on 25 August 2006

Percentage of times a Greens member has voted with the Opposition

Assembly	Opposition Party	Percentage
Third Assembly	Australian Labor Party	50%
Fourth Assembly	Australian Labor Party	79%
Fifth Assembly	Liberal Party	29%
Sixth Assembly	Liberal Party	51%
Seventh Assembly	Liberal Party	16%
Eighth Assembly	Liberal Party	2%
Ninth Assembly	Liberal Party	3%
Tenth Assembly	Liberal Party	0.5% ¹⁰⁷

Petitions

First petition presented

23 May 1989¹⁰⁸

First electronic petition presented

26 November 2013¹⁰⁹

Petition with the most signatures

39,874 presented 27 June 1996¹¹⁰

Petition with the smallest number of signatures

1¹¹¹

Most signatures on petitions relating to one issue

62,981¹¹²

¹⁰⁷ As at 31 December 2023

¹⁰⁸ Relating to a request to repeal the *Australian Capital Territory Casino Control Ordinance 1988* (3,000 signatures)

¹⁰⁹ Relating to proposed safety measures on McBryde Crescent, Wanniasa near Trinity Christian School

¹¹⁰ Relating to proposed legislation on restricted shopping hours

¹¹¹ Relating to security of tender for the venue of Belconnen Trash 'n' Treasure market

¹¹² Relating to the closure of the Royal Canberra Hospital