

# Significance

Unfortunately, there is not equality in sporting and fair opportunities are not always given to everyone. Ash Barty is significant due to her working towards making sporting equal for all in Australia. The first way that Ash has and is contributing to this movement is through her achievements in sporting. Ash Barty is a young woman of Aboriginal descent who grew up in a middle-class household, and through her ranking as world number one, she has shown Australia that women and Aboriginal people are capable of competing and winning in the field of sporting, despite the gap between these groups of people throughout the history of the Australian society. Ash Barty also promotes equality for people of different sexualities, demonstrated when she defended her friend and doubles partner, Casey Dellacqua, who is married and has children with another woman, against an attack against same sex marriage on twitter. In addition to this, Barty is the ambassador for National Indigenous Tennis Australia and works hard to share her love of tennis to children in Aboriginal communities. Ash Barty will be remembered into the future as both a highly skilled tennis player who has and likely will continue to make records in Australia as well as an advocate for equality in sporting and in the Australian society.



It doesn't matter what shape, what size you come in – chase your dreams and show the world what you can do.

-Ash Barty

# Author's Insight

I personally love sport and will take every opportunity that is given to play what I love. Ash Barty has been an inspiration for me as I have watched her on television become world No.1 in women's tennis over the last few years. When first told that I had to research a key Australian figure, my mind jumped straight to Ash Barty. Not only because she is an amazing Aussie sportswoman with many titles up her belt, but also because I see many similarities between myself and Ash Barty, including coming from a country town, a love of sport and a tendency to put too much pressure on myself. Now that I have completed this pamphlet, I am in so much more awe of Barty as I have seen her whole story and the challenges she has faced and overcome to get where she is today.

*Lilli Beresford*



## Fun Facts

### 1. Disney:

Throughout the duration of the Australian Open in 2019, Ash Barty dropped quotes from three Disney movies into post-match interviews. The quotes from The Lion King, Toy Story and the Little Mermaid showed that Ash has watched and loved these movies throughout her childhood and, possibly, more recently.

### 2. Coffee:

Ash Barty loves coffee and shares her passion for it through her Instagram page, even putting "coffee lover" in her profile description. The current world No.1 in women's tennis is also a qualified barista.

### 3. Bartymite:

In 2019, after winning the WTA Finals in Shenzhen, China and becoming world No.1 in women's singles, Vegemite released a limited-edition jar reading "Bartymite." Vegemite is one of Ash Barty's sponsors and it was the second time Vegemite's name had ever been changed, and the first time with an individual's name.



# Ash Barty

## Key Australian Figure Biographical Pamphlet - Lilli Beresford

Ashleigh Barty, more commonly referred to as Ash, is a 24-year-old professional Australian tennis player and cricketer. Barty is most famous for her athletic versatility having played at a professional level in a variety of sports including national cricket, golf, and international tennis. Ash Barty is ranked No.1 in the world by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) and is only the second Australian to ever achieve this position. The professional sportswoman is of Indigenous descent and has been named the National Indigenous Tennis Ambassador by Tennis Australia. Ash Barty is an advocate for equality in sporting for people of all age, race, sexuality and socio-economic class and is an inspirational young woman who has already had a large effect on the Australian society.

# Background & Childhood

Ashleigh Barty was born in Ipswich, South East Queensland on April 24, 1996 to Josie Barty, a radiographer and daughter of English immigrants, and Robert Barty, a government worker and part of the Ngarigo Community of Indigenous Australian people. Barty grew up in a middle-class Christian household along with her two older sisters, Sara and Ali. Ash began playing both netball and tennis at a very young age, however she soon stopped netball as she considered it a "girl's game." At the age of four, Ash Barty was taken on by the junior coach, Jim Joyce, due to her exceptional focus and hand eye coordination.

**"The first ball I threw to her, bang! She hit it right back."** Jim Joyce recalled this moment from Barty's first lesson in an interview with the Sydney Morning Herald. Ash Barty quickly developed from the already naturally talented tennis player to a national and then international level through her practice which included hitting a tennis ball against the garage wall after school. At the age of 15 and at her junior career peak, Ash Barty won the junior Wimbledon. However, this professional career at such a young age did come at a large personal cost as Ash missed out on a significant portion of her childhood at home with family and friends.

# Education

Ash Barty attended Woodcrest State College, a school local to where she grew up from kindergarten to year 12, and did not attend tertiary education. However, due to Barty beginning and thriving in her professional tennis career at a very young age, she did not have a very high attendance. The year Ash turned 17, she only spent 27 days in the calendar year in Australia.

**"I kind of missed that normality, there were times where I was at school for twenty odd days a year and that's really not enough time,"**

Ash Barty said this when looking back on her childhood in an interview with The Project.



# Key Accomplishments

Ash Barty has accomplished many great things throughout her life, most of which have been achieved throughout her tennis career. Barty has won eight singles titles and ten doubles titles on the WTA Tour, including one Grand Slam singles title at the 2019 French Open and one Grand Slam doubles title at the 2018 US Open with her partner CoCo Vandeweghe. She is also the reigning champion and world No.1 in singles at the WTA Finals. Outside of tennis, she also recieved "The Don Award" in 2019 in honour of the great batsman, Don Bradman, for being the athlete who most inspired the nation, and in 2020 Ash Barty took out the Young Australian of the Year Award.

# Challenges

Barty's life, although only beginning in comparison to other key Australian figures, has been riddled by challenges that she has had to overcome in order to get where she is today.

**"Some of my barriers were that I didn't feel like I fit in. Both of my sisters went down an academic route and I felt like I was kind of the odd one out."**

One of Ash Barty's first challenges was finding where she could fit in. Ash was in the minority of high level junior athletes as she came from a country town and was also of Aboriginal descent. Barty overcame this challenge through her charisma, making friends with peers at tournaments including her current doubles partner, Casey Dellacqua. The second, more significant challenge that Ash Barty has overcome is her mental health and stress. This instance refers to when Barty was in her early teens and took a break from her professional career to experience life as a "normal teenage girl." Barty's ability to overcome her challenges and make decisions for her personal welfare are part of what makes her such an inspirational and successful sportswoman.

If I win, it's a bonus. If I lose, the sun still comes up the next day, and it's all good.

*-Ash Barty*

# Experiences & Career

Ash Barty's professional junior career, which she began at 14, ended the year she turned 18. The highlight of her youth was her win of the junior Wimbledon, however in 2014, Barty announced a break from professional tennis, saying she wasn't enjoying the stress it put her under. At the end of this year, Barty signed up for the Western Suburbs District Cricket Club. Ash finished the season with a grand final win and runner-up best on ground. This got her into the national Women's Big Bash League with the Brisbane Heat. After finishing her second season of cricket in 2016, Ash Barty decided to return to professional tennis, finishing off the year with a career-high of world No. 15. From 2017 to 2018, Ash Barty continued to climb the WTA rankings in both singles and doubles by competing and winning several tournaments around the world. Ultimately, it was Barty's win of the WTA Finals in Shenzhen, China that got Ash Barty the world No.1 which she has held on to since.

# Major Events in Life

**1996:**  
Born in Ipswich, Queensland.

**2000:**  
Began tennis lessons with coach, Jim Joyce.

**2010:**  
Began professional tennis career.

**2014:**  
Announced break from professional tennis.

**2016:**  
Return to tennis, world No. 15.

**2020:**  
Young Australian of the Year Award.

**2009:**  
Won first Grade 4 Australian International tournament.

**2011:**  
Won Junior Wimbledon.

**2015:**  
Signed with the Heat for Women's Big Bash League.

**2019:**  
French Open and WTA Finals champion, world No. 1 in singles.

