



Firsts as new Labor ministry sworn in

Canberra Times (Australia)

June 2, 2022 Thursday

Print Edition

Copyright 2022 Fairfax Media Publications Pty. Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. 6

Length: 508 words

Byline: Dominic Giannini, Andrew Brown

Body

Thirty members of Anthony Albanese's new ministry, which contains a record number of women, were sworn in by Governor-General David Hurley at Government House in Canberra on Wednesday.

The group included the first female Muslim minister in **Anne Aly** and the first Muslim to serve in cabinet with Ed Husic joining the frontbench.

Linda Burney becomes the first woman, and the second First Nations person, to serve as Indigenous affairs minister.

Mr Albanese said he was proud to lead "an inclusive government that is as diverse as **Australia** itself".

The major cabinet shakeup by Mr Albanese had some questioning the shift of more senior MPs, after Tanya Plibersek was stripped of the education and women portfolios and moved to environment and water.

Deputy Labor leader Richard Marles defended the move, saying the environment ministry could not be characterised as a demotion, with the area front and centre of Labor's priorities.

"It's one of the most important ministries we have got which has been an enduring passion for Tanya Plibersek," he said on Wednesday.

"It's always been a very senior portfolio in government, particularly Labor governments."

Thirteen women were appointed to a ministerial role with a record 10 in the cabinet.

Mr Marles defended not going with a 50-50 gender split in cabinet.

"It's a significant moment in the nation's history," he said ahead of the swearing in.

"We have women of enormous calibre in the most senior roles who are going to play a critical part in shaping the policy of this government and the character of this government."

Firsts as new Labor ministry sworn in

The new Minister for Aged Care and Sport Anika Wells, who will sit in the outer ministry, says she will implement Labor's key promises.

"I'm very conscious that that is our task and we're on it to do and to start doing as quickly as we possibly can because people are waiting every day," she told the ABC.

"We have to deliver what we've committed to, which is things like registered nurses on site 24/7. It's astonishing to me that that doesn't already happen."

Mr Albanese announced his cabinet on Tuesday night, with a balance of new faces and MPs who served in the previous Labor government.

The swearing in coincides with Labor securing 77 seats in the House of Representatives, after the marginal seat of Gilmore on the NSW south coast was called for incumbent Fiona Phillips.

While some MPs retained their portfolios from when Labor was in opposition, there was a shake up in some key areas.

Mr Marles will double as the new defence minister while education will be held by Jason Clare, and Clare O'Neil will take on home affairs.

Mark Butler will be in charge of health, Tony Burke the minister for employment and the arts, while Chris Bowen will be climate change and energy minister.

Ms Burney will work alongside Pat Dodson, who was named a special envoy for reconciliation and implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

New faces to the frontbench include Ms Wells, **Anne Aly** in early childhood and youth, and Kristy McBain in regional development, local government and territories.

Load-Date: June 1, 2022