



Labor's historic frontbench sworn in

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Body

Senior Labor MPs have been sworn into the new cabinet at Government House in Canberra on Wednesday morning, touted by Anthony Albanese as the most experienced frontbench line-up since federation. A record 10 women have been sworn into cabinet, and a total of 13 female ministers have been appointed to the ministry overall.

There is also a record number of MPs from ethnic backgrounds in the new ministry, including **Anne Aly** and Ed Husic who are the first Muslim-Australians in a ministry. Linda Burney is also the first Indigenous female to hold the Indigenous portfolio, with Malarndirri McCarthy as assistant Minister and Pat Dodson given a role as special envoy for the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Tanya Plibersek has been sworn into the environment and water portfolios.

A former leadership rival to Anthony Albanese, the Prime Minister has denied the move is a demotion.

The ceremony comes after Labor secured a majority government on Tuesday, claiming the 77 out of 151 seats allowing it to govern in its own right. The swearing in was briefly interrupted when a phone rang as MP Kristy McBain was shaking Governor General David Hurley's hand, playing the riff of the 1987 INXS hit 'Need You Tonight'. The Prime Minister joked: "Can ministers not bring soundtracks, please".

Mr Albanese said during the election campaign he intended to maintain the same team as in shadow ministry during the Morrison government's tenure, which has largely remained true.

The new ministry was sworn in before Mr Albanese flies to Indonesia on Sunday.

Mr Albanese on Tuesday addressed Labor senators and MPs at the first federal caucus since the party won the federal election. "I want to remind you that you shouldn't waste a day in government. We don't intend to," he said.

After posing for a variety of family photos on the steps of Government House, the new ministers will head into briefings this afternoon followed by a Cabinet meeting tonight.

Full list of portfolios:

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Jim Chalmers - Treasurer

Penny Wong - Senate Leader and Foreign Minister

Richard Marles - Deputy PM and Defence

Tanya Plibersek - Environment and Water

Jason Clare - Education

Katy Gallagher - Finance, Public Service and Women

Mark Dreyfus - Attorney-General and Cabinet Secretary

Tony Burke - Leader of the House, Employment and Workplace Relations and Arts

Don Farrell - Tourism and Travel and Special Minister of State

Clare O'Neil - Home Affairs

Amanda Rishworth - Social Services

Bill Shorten - NDIS and Government Services

Mark Butler - Health and Aged Care

Chris Bowen - Climate Change and Energy

Catherine King - Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Madeleine King - Resources and Northern **Australia**

Brendan O'Connor - Skills and Training

Murray Watt - Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Emergency Management

Linda Burney - Indigenous Australians

Julie Collins - Housing, Homelessness and Small Business

Michelle Rowland - Communications

Ed Husic - Industry and Science

Stephen Jones - Assistant Treasurer and Financial Services

Anne Aly - Early Childhood Education and Youth

Kristy McBain - Regional Development, Local Government and Territories

Andrew Giles - Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs

Matt Keogh - Veterans Affairs and Defence Personnel

Pat Conroy - Defence Industry and International Development and the Pacific

Anika Wells - Sport and Aged Care

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