

= Julia Gillard =

Julia Eileen Gillard (born 29 September 1961) is a former Australian politician who served as the 27th Prime Minister of Australia from 2010 to 2013 , as leader of the Australian Labor Party . She previously served as the 13th Deputy Prime Minister of Australia , and held the cabinet positions of Minister for Education , Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and Minister for Social Inclusion from 2007 to 2010 . She was the first and to date only woman to hold the positions of deputy prime minister , prime minister and leader of a major party in Australia .

Born in Barry , Wales , Gillard migrated with her family to Adelaide , South Australia , in 1966 . She attended Mitcham Demonstration School and Unley High School . Subsequently , Gillard studied at the University of Adelaide , but cut short her courses to move to Melbourne , Victoria , in 1982 , where she worked with the Australian Union of Students and served as the organisation 's president from 1983 to 1984 . Gillard later graduated from the University of Melbourne , with a Bachelor of Laws degree (1986) and a Bachelor of Arts degree (1989) . In 1987 , she joined the law firm Slater & Gordon and became a partner in 1990 , specialising in industrial law . A departure from the law firm in 1996 saw Gillard serve as chief of staff to the Leader of the Opposition in Victoria John Brumby , which preceded her own entry into federal politics .

Gillard was first elected to the House of Representatives at the 1998 federal election for the seat of Lalor . Following the 2001 federal election , she was elected to the Shadow Cabinet and was given the portfolio of Population and Immigration . In 2003 , she took on the responsibility for both Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs and Health . In December 2006 , when Kevin Rudd was elected as Labor Leader and became Leader of the Opposition , Gillard was elected unopposed as his deputy . Upon Labor 's victory in the 2007 federal election , Gillard became the first female Deputy Prime Minister of Australia , and held the cabinet portfolios of Minister for Education , Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and Minister for Social Inclusion . On 24 June 2010 , after Rudd lost the support of his party and resigned , Gillard was elected unopposed as the Leader of the Labor Party , thus becoming the 27th Prime Minister of Australia . The subsequent 2010 federal election saw the first hung parliament since the 1940 federal election . Gillard was able to form a minority government with the support of a Green MP and three independent MPs . On 26 June 2013 , after a leadership spill , Gillard lost the leadership of the Labor Party to Rudd . Her resignation as Prime Minister took effect the following day . Gillard retired from politics on 5 August 2013 , before the impending federal election .

Following her departure from politics , in August 2013 Gillard became an honorary visiting professor at the University of Adelaide , and a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution 's Center for Universal Education in October . Gillard released her political memoirs , *My Story* , in September 2014 . She has been on the board of mental health organisation beyondblue from December 2014 , and was made an honorary fellow of Aberystwyth University in June 2015 . In addition to her various appointments , Gillard has served as the chairwoman of the Global Partnership for Education since February 2014 .

= = Early life and family = =

Gillard was born on 29 September 1961 , in Barry , Wales . After she suffered from bronchopneumonia as a child , her parents were advised it would aid her recovery if they were to live in a warmer climate . This led the family to migrate to Australia in 1966 , settling in Adelaide . In 1974 , eight years after they arrived , Gillard and her family became Australian citizens . As a result , Gillard held dual Australian / British citizenship until she renounced her British citizenship prior to entering Parliament in 1998 . Her father , John Oliver Gillard (1929 ? 2012) , was of English , Irish and Welsh descent , and worked as a psychiatric nurse . Gillard 's mother , Moira Gillard (née Mackenzie) , worked at the local Salvation Army nursing home and currently lives in Pasadena , South Australia . Moira 's ancestry is Scottish and Irish . Gillard also has a sister , Alison , who is three years older .

= = = Education , career and political aspirations = = =

Gillard and her sister attended Mitcham Demonstration School , and Julia went on to attend Unley High School . She later studied at the University of Adelaide , during which she served as the President of the Adelaide University Union from 1981 to 1982 . In her second year at the university , Gillard was introduced to politics by the daughter of a State Labor Minister . Accordingly , she joined the Labor Club and became involved in a campaign to fight federal education budget cuts . Gillard cut short her courses in 1982 , and moved to Melbourne to work with the Australian Union of Students .

After moving to Melbourne , in 1983 Gillard became the second woman to lead the Australian Union of Students , until the organisation 's discontinuation in 1984 . She was also the secretary of the left @-@ wing organisation Socialist Forum . From 1985 to 1989 , Gillard served as President of the Carlton branch of the Labor Party .

Gillard commenced studying at the University of Melbourne , graduating with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1986 , and a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1989 . In 1987 , Gillard joined the law firm Slater & Gordon in Werribee , Victoria , working in industrial law . In 1990 , she was admitted as a partner ; at the age of 29 , she was the youngest partner within the firm , and one of the first women to hold the position .

Gillard sought Labor Party preselection twice for seats in the House of Representatives during the early 1990 's ; however , she did not succeed in either attempt . In 1995 , Gillard took a leave of absence from Slater & Gordon to contest the 1996 federal election . Gillard stood as a Senate candidate , having been preselected for the third position on Labor 's ticket , although she was not elected to the position .

Some time later , in 1996 , Gillard resigned from her position with Slater & Gordon in order to serve as the Chief of Staff to John Brumby , at that time the Leader of the Opposition in Victoria . She was responsible for drafting the affirmative @-@ action rules within the Labor Party in Victoria that set the target of pre @-@ selecting women for 35 per cent of " winnable seats " . She also played a role in the foundation of EMILY 's List , the pro @-@ choice fund @-@ raising and support network for Labor women .

The Welsh Labour politician Aneurin Bevan remains one of her political heroes .

= = Member of Parliament , 1998 ? 2010 = =

Gillard was first elected to the House of Representatives at the 1998 federal election representing Lalor , a safe Labor seat near Melbourne , replacing Barry Jones who retired . She made her maiden speech to the House on 11 November 1998 .

Following her election to Parliament in 1998 , Gillard served in various Australian House of Representatives committees . Gillard was a member of the Standing committee for Employment , Education and Workplace Relations from 8 December 1998 to 8 December 2001 , in addition to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs from 20 March 2003 to 18 August 2003 . Within the Joint committees , she was a member of the Public Accounts and Audit from 8 December 1998 to 11 February 2002 , in addition to the Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund from 20 March 2003 to 11 August 2003 .

= = = Shadow minister (2001 ? 07) = = =

After Labor 's defeat at the 2001 federal election , Gillard was elected to the Shadow Cabinet under then @-@ Labor Leader Simon Crean , where she was given responsibility for Population and Immigration . In February 2003 , she was given additional responsibilities for Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs . In these roles , in the wake of the Tampa and Children Overboard affairs , which were partly credited with Labor 's 2001 election loss , Gillard developed a new immigration policy for the Labor Party .

Gillard was later promoted to the position of Shadow Minister for Health and Deputy Manager of

Opposition Business in the House (to Mark Latham) on 2 July 2003 . During this time , she shadowed Tony Abbott , with the rivalry between the two often attracting attention from the media . She was later given additional responsibility for managing opposition business in the House of Representatives by Latham , who had succeeded Beazley as Labor Leader .

In the aftermath of Labor 's fourth consecutive defeat in the 2004 federal election it was widely speculated that Gillard might challenge Jenny Macklin for the deputy leadership , but she did not do so . Gillard had been spoken of as a potential future leader of the party for some years , but never stood in a leadership contest . After Mark Latham resigned as Labor Leader in January 2005 , Gillard appeared on ABC 's Australian Story in March 2006 , after which an Ipsos Mackay poll conducted for Network Ten 's Meet the Press found that more respondents would prefer Gillard to be Labor Leader ; she polled 32 % compared with Beazley 's 25 % and Kevin Rudd 's 18 % . Although she had significant cross @-@ factional support , she announced on 25 January 2005 that she would not contest the leadership , allowing Beazley to be elected unopposed .

= = = Deputy Opposition leader , 2006 ? 07 = = =

On 1 December 2006 , as part of a cross @-@ factional political partnership with Kevin Rudd , Gillard challenged Jenny Macklin for the deputy leadership . After Rudd successfully replaced Beazley as Labor Leader on 4 December 2006 , Macklin chose to resign , allowing Gillard to become Deputy Leader unopposed . In the subsequent reshuffle , Gillard was allocated responsibility for Employment , Workplace Relations and Social Inclusion , as well as being made Deputy Leader of the Opposition .

= = = Deputy Prime Minister (2007 ? 10) = = =

After the Labor Party 's victory in the 2007 federal election , Gillard was sworn in as the first ever female Deputy Prime Minister of Australia on 3 December 2007 . In addition to being made Deputy Prime Minister , Gillard was given responsibility for a so @-@ called " super ministry " , the Department of Education , Employment and Workplace Relations .

In her role as Minister for Education , Gillard travelled to Washington D.C. in 2009 , where she signed a deal with US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to encourage improved policy collaboration in education reform between both countries . The establishment of the Australian Curriculum , Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) , an independent authority responsible for the development of a national curriculum , was amongst her first policy pursuits in 2008 . She launched the government 's " Digital Education Revolution " (DER) program , which provided laptops to all public secondary school students and developed quality digital tools , resources and infrastructure for all schools . In conjunction with DER , Gillard oversaw the " Building the Education Revolution " (BER) program , which allocated \$ 16 billion to build new school accommodation including classrooms , libraries and assembly halls . Gillard also ensured the implementation of the National Assessment Program ? Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in 2008 , whereby a series of standardised tests focused on basic skills are administered annually to Australian students . This was followed by the introduction of the My School website ; launched in January 2010 , the website reports on data from NAPLAN and displays information such as school missions , staffing , financial information , its resources and its students ' characteristics .

As Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations , Gillard removed the WorkChoices industrial relations regime introduced by the Howard Government , and replaced it with the Fair Work Act . This established a single industrial relations bureaucracy called Fair Work Australia . She was a member of the Strategic Priorities Budget Committee (SPBC) ? also referred to as " Gang of Four " ? which comprised Rudd and his most senior ministers : Gillard , Treasurer Wayne Swan and Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner . Formed in late @-@ 2007 as a result of an internal review , the SPBC was responsible for the government 's handling of the 2007 ? 08 global financial crisis .

On 11 December 2007 , she temporarily assumed the duties of the Prime Minister while Kevin Rudd attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali , becoming the first woman

ever to do so . She assumed these duties for a total of 69 days throughout Rudd 's tenure , during his various overseas travel engagements . Gillard quickly became known as a highly regarded debater , with her performances during parliamentary question time prompting Peter van Onselen to call her " the best parliamentary performer on the Labor side " .

= = Prime Minister (2010 ? 13) = =

= = = 2010 leadership vote = = =

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd suffered a decline in his personal ratings , and a perceived loss of support among his own MPs , following the failure of the Government 's insulation program , controversy regarding the implementation of a tax on mining , the failure of the government to secure passage of its carbon trading scheme and some policy debate about immigration policy . Significant disaffection had arisen within the Labor Party as to the leadership style and direction of Rudd . On 23 June 2010 he announced that Gillard had asked him to hold a leadership ballot the following day to determine the leadership of the Labor Party , and hence the Prime Ministership of Australia .

As late as May 2010 , prior to challenging Rudd , Gillard was quipping to the media that " There 's more chance of me becoming the full @-@ forward for the Dogs than there is of any change in the Labor Party " . Consequently , Gillard 's move against Rudd on 23 June appeared to surprise many Labor backbenchers . Daryl Melham , when asked by a reporter on the night of the challenge if indeed a challenge was on , replied : " Complete garbage . ABC have lost all credibility . " As he was being deposed , Rudd suggested that his opponents wanted to move Labor to the right , saying on 23 June : " This party and government will not be lurching to the right on the question of asylum seekers , as some have counselled us to do . "

Initially , The Sydney Morning Herald reported that the final catalyst for the move on Rudd was sparked by a report that Rudd had used his chief of staff to sound out back benchers on his level of support , thus implying that " he did not trust the repeated assurances by Ms Gillard that she would not stand " . Later , ABC 's 7 : 30 Report said the seeds for the challenge to Rudd came from " factional heavyweights " Bill Shorten and Senator David Feeney , who secured the support of " New South Wales right power broker " Mark Arbib and that Feeney and Arbib went to discuss a challenge with Gillard on the morning of 23 June and a final numbers count began for a challenge . Accounts have continued to differ as to the extent of Gillard 's foreknowledge and planning of the replacement of Rudd .

Rudd initially said that he would challenge Gillard , but it soon became apparent that he did not have enough support within the party to survive in his position . Hours before the vote on 24 June , he resigned as Prime Minister and Leader of the Labor Party , leaving Gillard to assume the leadership unopposed . Treasurer Wayne Swan was at the same time elected unopposed to succeed Gillard as Deputy Leader .

Shortly afterward , Gillard was sworn in as the 27th Prime Minister of Australia by Governor @-@ General Quentin Bryce , with Swan being sworn in as Deputy Prime Minister . The members of the Rudd Ministry , with the exception of Rudd himself who returned to the backbenches , subsequently became the members of the First Gillard Ministry .

Later that day , in her first press conference as Prime Minister , Gillard said that at times the Rudd Government " went off the tracks " , and " [I] came to the view that a good Government was losing its way " . Gillard offered wider explanation of her motivations for replacing Rudd during the 2012 Labor leadership spill in which Rudd challenged Gillard to regain the Labor leadership , telling the media that the Rudd Government had entered a " period of paralysis " and that Rudd 's work patterns were " difficult and chaotic " .

Upon her election by the Labor Party , Gillard said that she wouldn 't move into The Lodge until she was elected Prime Minister in her own right , instead choosing to divide her time between a flat in Canberra and her home in Altona , a western suburb of Melbourne . Gillard moved into The Lodge

on 26 September 2010 .

As well as being the first female Prime Minister , and the first never to have married , Gillard is the first Prime Minister since Billy Hughes to have been born overseas .

The leadership question remained a feature of the Gillard Government 's terms in office , and amidst ongoing leadership speculation following an ABC TV Four Corners examination of the events leading up to Rudd 's replacement which cast doubt on Gillard 's insistence that she did not actively campaign for the Prime Ministership , Attorney @-@ General Nicola Roxon spoke of Rudd 's record in the following terms : " I don 't think we should whitewash history ? while there are a lot of very good things our government did with Kevin as prime minister , there were also a lot of challenges , and it 's Julia who has seen through fixing a lot of those problems . "

= = = 2010 election = = =

On 17 July 2010 , 23 days after becoming prime minister and after receiving the agreement of the Governor @-@ General Quentin Bryce , Gillard announced the next federal election would be held on 21 August 2010 . Gillard began campaigning with a speech utilising the slogan " moving forward " . In the early stages of the campaign , a series of leaks were released by purported Labor Party sources , indicating apparent divisions within Cabinet over the replacement of Kevin Rudd by Gillard . Mid @-@ way through the campaign , Gillard offered journalists a self @-@ assessment of her campaign by saying that she had been paying too much attention to advisers in her strategy team , and she wanted to run a less " stage @-@ managed " campaign :

I think it 's time for me to make sure that the real Julia is well and truly on display , so I 'm going to step up and take personal charge of what we do in the campaign from this point .

Gillard met Opposition leader Tony Abbott for one official debate during the campaign . Studio audience surveys by Channel Nine and the Seven Network suggested a win to Gillard . Unable to agree on further debates , the leaders went on to appear separately on stage for questioning at community forums in Sydney , New South Wales and Brisbane , Queensland . An audience exit poll of the Rooty Hill RSL audience indicated an Abbott victory . Gillard won the audience poll at the Broncos Leagues Club meeting in Brisbane on 18 August . Gillard also appeared on the ABC 's Q & A program on 9 August . On 7 August , Gillard was questioned by former Labor leader turned Channel Nine reporter Mark Latham .

Gillard officially " launched " Labor 's campaign in Brisbane five days before polling day , outlining Labor policies and utilising the slogan : " Yes we will move forward together " .

Labor and the Coalition each won 72 seats in the 150 @-@ seat House of Representatives , four short of the requirement for majority government , resulting in the first hung parliament since the 1940 election . Labor suffered an 11 @-@ seat swing , even though it won a bare majority of the two @-@ party vote . Both major party leaders sought to form a minority government .

Six crossbench MPs held the balance of power . Four crossbench MPs , Greens Adam Bandt and independents Andrew Wilkie , Rob Oakeshott and Tony Windsor declared their support for Labor on confidence and supply , allowing Gillard and Labor to remain in power with a minority government . Governor @-@ General Bryce swore in the Second Gillard Ministry on 14 September 2010 .

= = = Domestic policies = = =

= = = = Economy = = = =

Gillard came to office in the aftermath of the global financial crisis of 2007 ? 2008 . Government receipts fell during the international downturn and the Rudd Government had employed pump priming expenditure . Upon taking over as leader of the Labor Party on 24 June 2010 , Gillard said she could " assure " Australians that the Federal Budget would be in surplus in 2013 . The Government continued to promise this outcome until December 2012 . Gillard initially ruled out a " carbon tax " but said that she would build community consensus for a price on carbon and open

negotiations with the mining industry for a re @-@ vamped mining profits tax . Following the 2010 hung parliament election result , the Labor Party elected to adopt the Australian Greens preference for a carbon tax to transition to an emissions trading scheme , establishing a carbon price via the Clean Energy Act 2011 . The government also introduced a revised Minerals Resource Rent Tax and the Queensland Flood Levy .

The Gillard Government stressed a need to return the Federal Budget to surplus for the 2012 ? 13 financial year , and Gillard said that there would be " no ifs no buts " about this promise and that " failure is not an option here and we won 't fail " . In his 2012 ? 13 Budget , Treasurer Swan announced that the government would deliver a \$ 1 @.@ 5 billion surplus . The government cut defence and foreign aid spending . In December 2012 , Swan announced that the government no longer expected to achieve a surplus , citing falling revenue and global economic conditions .

= = = = Health = = = =

Like her predecessor Rudd , Gillard had said that health is a priority in her agenda . She announced during the 2010 election , that there would be an increase of 270 placements for emergency doctors and nurses and 3 @,@ 000 extra nursing scholarships over the following 10 years . She also said mental health would be a priority in her second term , with a \$ 277 million suicide @-@ prevention package which would target high @-@ risk groups . As the election delivered a hung parliament , a \$ 1 @.@ 8 billion package was given to rural hospitals , which was agreed to by the independents to support her re @-@ election .

In October 2010 , her government introduced legislation to reform funding arrangements for the health system , with the intention of giving the Commonwealth responsibility for providing the majority of funding to public hospitals and 100 per cent of funding for primary care and GP services . In February 2011 , Gillard announced extensive revision of the original health funding reforms proposed by the Rudd Government , which had been unable to secure the support of all state governments . The revised Gillard government plan proposed that the federal government move towards providing 50 % of new health funding (and not 60 per cent as originally agreed) and removed the requirement of the states to cede a proportion of their GST revenue to the Federal Government in order to fund the new arrangement . The new agreement was supported by all state premiers and chief ministers and signed on 2 August .

= = = = Asylum seekers = = = =

In relation to population targets for Australia , Gillard told Fairfax Media in August 2010 that while skilled migration is important : " I don 't support the idea of a big Australia " . Gillard also altered the nomenclature of Tony Burke 's role as " Minister for Population " to that of " Minister for Sustainable Population " .

After winning leadership of the Labor Party , Gillard identified addressing the issue of unauthorised arrivals of asylum seekers as a priority of her government . She announced that negotiations were underway for a return to " offshore processing " of asylum seeker claims . Gillard ruled out a return to processing at Nauru and named East Timor as a preferred location for new detention and processing facilities . The East Timorese Government rejected the plan .

In October 2010 , her government announced that it would open two detention centres for 2000 immigrants , due to the pressures in allowing women and children to be released into the community . One was to be opened in Inverbrackie , South Australia , and one in Northam , Western Australia . She said it would be a short @-@ term solution to the problem and that temporary detention centres would be closed .

On 15 December 2010 , a ship containing 89 asylum seekers crashed on the shore of Christmas Island , killing up to fifty people . Refugee and migrant advocates condemned the government 's hardline policy as responsible for the tragedy , and Labor Party President Anna Bligh called for a complete review of the party 's asylum seeker policy . Gillard returned early from holidays in response to the crash , and to review asylum seeker policy . Some months later Gillard would

announce " The Malaysia Solution " in response .

In April 2011 , the Federal Government confirmed that a detention centre for single men would be built at the old army barracks at Pontville , 45 minutes north of Hobart , Tasmania . This immigration detention centre would house up to 400 refugees . Also in April 2011 , immigration detainees at the Villawood detention centre rioted in protest of their treatment , setting fire to several buildings .

In May 2011 , Gillard announced that Australia and Malaysia were finalising an arrangement to exchange asylum seekers . Gillard and Immigration Minister Chris Bowen said they were close to signing a bilateral agreement which would result in 800 asylum seekers who arrive in Australia by boat being taken to Malaysia instead . Australia would take 4 @, @ 000 people from Malaysia who have previously been assessed as being refugees . However , on 31 August , the High Court ruled that the agreement to transfer refugees from Australia to Malaysia was invalid , and ordered that it not proceed . Australia would still accept 4 @, @ 000 people who have been assessed as refugees in Malaysia .

The asylum seeker debate returned during August 2012 following the report of the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers , led by retired Air Chief Marshall Angus Houston . Accepting the panel 's recommendation , Gillard on 12 August 2012 announced that a bill then before Parliament would be amended to allow the Government to choose sites for off @-@ shore processing . At the same time she announced the Government would nominate Nauru and Manus Island , Papua New Guinea to be re @-@ opened . The amended bill passed with the support of the Opposition on 16 August 2012 .

= = = = Education = = = =

Gillard held the responsibilities of the Education portfolio for four days after becoming Prime Minister , before appointing Simon Crean as Education Minister on 28 June 2010 . Following the 2010 election , Peter Garrett assumed the role of Minister for Education , where he remained until June 2013 . Gillard also altered the nomenclature of " Minister for Innovation , Industry , Science and Research " to comprise tertiary education ; Chris Evans , Chris Bowen , and later , Craig Emerson , each served as Minister for Tertiary Education , Skills , Science and Research in the Gillard Government .

At the July 2010 National Press Club , Gillard stated " I will make education central to my economic agenda because of the role it plays in developing the skills that lead to rewarding and satisfying work ? and that can build a high @-@ productivity , high @-@ participation economy . " The Gillard Government in January 2011 extended tax cuts to parents to help pay for stationery , textbooks or computer equipment under the Education Tax Refund scheme .

As Education Minister under Rudd , Gillard commissioned David Gonski to be chairman of a committee to make recommendations regarding funding of education in Australia . The findings and recommendations of the committee were later presented to the Gillard Government in November 2011 , whereafter deliberations were entered into by the Federal and state governments to consider its content . The committee 's report is known as the Gonski Report . Subsequently , the proposed reforms (an increase in funding) became known as " Gonski " and supporters urged governments to " Give a Gonski " . The report was removed from the government website by the newly elected Abbott Government after the 2013 Federal election and is preserved by Australia 's Pandora Archive .

Gillard continued to put the My School website centre of her education agenda , which was controversial at the time when she implemented it as Minister for Education . Although it was popular amongst parents , the website helped parents view statistics of the school their children attended . She had since unveiled the revamped version , My School 2 @. @ 0 , promising better information to parents .

Universities also placed highly on her education agenda . Legislation which would have been voted on in November 2010 would have seen the introduction of a national universities regulator ; however , this was delayed until 2011 following criticisms from the higher education sector . It was also announced by her government that legislation to establish the Tertiary Education Quality and

Standards Agency would also be introduced early 2011 .

=== Climate change ===

The Rudd Labor opposition promised to implement an emissions trading scheme (ETS) before the 2007 federal election which Labor won . Rudd , unable to secure support for his scheme in the Senate , dropped it . During his 2012 leadership challenge against Gillard 's prime ministership , Rudd said that it was Gillard and Swan who convinced him to delay his Emissions Trading Scheme .

In the 2010 election campaign , Gillard pledged to build a " national consensus " for a carbon price by creating a " citizens assembly " , to examine " the evidence on climate change , the case for action and the possible consequences of introducing a market @-@ based approach to limiting and reducing carbon emissions " , over the course of one year . The assembly was to be selected by an independent authority who would select people from the electoral roll using census data . The plan was never implemented . After the 2010 Election , Gillard agreed to form a minority government with the Greens and Independents and replaced her " citizens assembly " plan with a climate change panel consisting of Labor , Greens and Independent members of Parliament . The panel ultimately announced backing for a temporary carbon tax , leading up to an Emissions Trading Scheme .

During the 2010 Election campaign , Gillard said that no carbon tax would be introduced under a government she led . In the first hung parliament result in 70 years , the Gillard Government , with the support of the Australian Greens and some cross bench independents , negotiated the implementation of a carbon tax (the preferred policy of the Australian Greens) , by which a fixed @-@ price carbon tax would proceed to a floating @-@ price ETS within a few years under the plans . The government proposed the Clean Energy Bill in February 2011 , which the opposition claimed to be a broken election promise .

The bill was passed by the Lower House in October 2011 and the Upper House in November 2011 .

=== Poker machines ===

In 2010 , Gillard agreed with Nick Xenophon , Andrew Wilkie and the Australian Greens to introduce poker machine reform legislation , to curb problem gambling , into the Parliament by May 2012 . After members of the cross bench advised that they would not support this bill in the House of Representatives , Gillard withdrew her support . Wilkie said that many Australians felt " very let down by the PM " , and fellow anti @-@ gambling campaigner Xenophon accused the Prime Minister of " backstabbing the person who put her in office " .

On 21 January 2012 , Wilkie announced that he was withdrawing his support for the Gillard Government after it broke the agreement he had signed with Gillard to implement mandatory pre @-@ commitment for all poker machines by 2014 . He stated that he would support the government 's alternative plan to trial pre @-@ commitment in the ACT and require that pre @-@ commitment technology be installed in all poker machines built from 2013 , but that this fell short of what he had been promised in return for supporting the government . In response , Gillard and Minister for Families , Housing , Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin argued that there was not enough support in the House of Representatives for Wilkie 's preferred option for it to be passed , and that they had been advised it was technically unfeasible to implement mandatory commitment within the time frame he had specified .

=== Same @-@ sex marriage ===

The triennial Labor conference held in December 2011 saw Gillard successfully negotiate an amendment on same @-@ sex marriage to see the party introduce a conscience vote to parliament through a private member 's bill , rather than a binding vote . Despite Gillard , who had previously stated her personal objection to same @-@ sex marriage , the motion passed narrowly by 208 votes

to 184 . In February 2012 , two bills to allow same @-@ sex marriage in Australia were introduced in the 43rd Parliament .

On 19 September 2012 , the House of Representatives voted against passing its same @-@ sex marriage bill by a margin of 98 @-@ 42 votes . On 21 September 2012 , the Senate also voted down its same @-@ sex marriage legislation , by a vote of 41 @-@ 26 .

= = = = Forced adoptions = = = =

On 21 March 2013 , Gillard delivered a national apology on behalf of the Australian Parliament to all those affected by the forced adoption practices that took place in Australia from the late ? 1950s to the 1970s . The apology , held in the Great Hall of Parliament House , was well ? received by the 800 attendees , most of whom were victims or shared a connection to these practices . Gillard opened her speech by announcing that the Parliament would take responsibility for the practice of forced adoptions :

Today , this Parliament , on behalf of the Australian people , takes responsibility and apologises for the policies and practices that forced the separation of mothers from their babies which created a lifelong legacy of pain and suffering .

In the speech , Gillard committed to \$ 5 million worth of specialist support and records tracing for victims of forced adoptions , and an additional \$ 1 @.@ 5 million towards the National Archives of Australia " to record the experiences of those affected by forced adoption through a special exhibition . "

= = = Foreign affairs = = =

During her first major international tour as Prime Minister , Gillard told ABC TV 's 7 @.@ 30 Report :

Foreign policy is not my passion . It 's not what I 've spent my life doing . You know , I came into politics predominantly to make a difference to opportunity questions , particularly make a difference in education . So , yes , if I had a choice I 'd probably more be in a school watching kids learn to read in Australia than here in Brussels at international meetings .

When Gillard replaced Rudd in 2010 , Stephen Smith retained the portfolio of Foreign Affairs up until the 2010 election . Following her 2010 election victory , Gillard selected her former leader Kevin Rudd (a career diplomat) as Foreign Minister . After Rudd 's unsuccessful leadership challenge in February 2012 , Gillard appointed Bob Carr to succeed Rudd as Foreign Affairs Minister .

The Gillard Government released the Asian Century White Paper in October 2012 , offering a strategic framework for " Australia 's navigation of the Asian Century " . The report included focus on Australia 's relations with China , India , the key ASEAN countries as well as Japan and South Korea .

On 19 October 2012 , Australia secured election to a seat as a Non @-@ Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council . The initiative had been launched by the Rudd Government , and further pursued under the Gillard Government .

= = = = India = = = =

In November 2011 , Gillard announced a desire to allow uranium exports to India , as a matter of " national interest , a decision about strengthening our strategic partnership with India in this the Asian century . " The Rudd Government had previously blocked uranium sales to India due to the Indian Government not being a signatory of the Nuclear Non @-@ Proliferation Treaty . The change in policy was supported a month later at the Labor Party National Conference , and Gillard reversed Australia 's ban on exporting uranium to India on 4 December 2011 . Gillard further expressed that any future agreement to sell uranium to India would include strict safeguards to ensure it would only be used for civilian purposes , and not end up in nuclear weapons .

===== United Kingdom =====

In relations with the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth , Gillard represented Australia at the Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in London in April 2011 and hosted the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth in October of that year . The Perth CHOGM saw the historic announcement , by Gillard and British Prime Minister David Cameron , of changes to the succession laws regarding to thrones of the Commonwealth realms , overturning rules privileging male over female heirs to the line of succession and removing a ban on Roman Catholic consorts . At the CHOGM , Gillard also hosted Queen Elizabeth II , for what was suggested to be the Monarch 's final visit to Australia , due to her age .

===== United States =====

In a 2008 speech in Washington , Gillard endorsed the ANZUS Alliance and described the United States as a civilising global influence . Her former colleague and leader Mark Latham wrote in a 2009 article for the Australian Financial Review that these comments were " hypocritical " , given past private communications Gillard had exchanged with him which apparently mocked elements of American foreign policy : " One of them concerned her study tour of the US , sponsored by the American Government in 2006 ? or to use her moniker ? ' a CIA re @-@ education course ' . She asked me to ' stand by for emails explaining George Bush is a great statesman , torture is justified in many circumstances and those Iraqi insurgents should just get over it ' . "

On 9 March 2011 , Gillard travelled to the United States to mark the 60th Anniversary of the ANZUS Alliance . Gillard addressed a joint session of the United States Congress , becoming the fourth Australian leader to do so and first foreign dignitary to address the 112th congress . In her speech to Congress , Gillard reiterated Australia 's diplomatic and security alliance with the United States , and noted that the United States has " a true friend down under ... In both our countries , true friends stick together ? in both our countries real mates talk straight ... So as a friend I urge you only this ? be worthy to your best traditions . Be bold . "

===== Afghanistan =====

During her first day as Prime Minister , Gillard reassured US President Barack Obama of Australia 's continuing support for the military campaign in Afghanistan . She visited Afghanistan on 2 October 2010 and met with Australian forces in Tarin Kowt and President Hamid Karzai in Kabul . The visit formed part of her first overseas trip as prime minister .

A parliamentary debate was conducted for four sitting weeks of parliament in November 2010 , with the agreement between Gillard and Abbott that it would be necessary for Australian soldiers to stay in Afghanistan and prevent it from becoming a safe haven for terrorists .

===== Gender politics =====

During the course of Gillard 's prime ministership , sexism had been a contentious issue for a number of Labor and Greens Party figures , as well as some commentators . Former Labor Party advisor Anne Summers said in 2012 that " Gillard is being persecuted both because she is a woman and in ways that would be impossible to apply to a man " . In reply , journalist Peter Hartcher wrote , " She was a woman when she was popular ; she can 't be unpopular now because she 's a woman . The change is a result of her actions in office , not her gender . "

===== Misogyny speech =====

In an August 2012 press conference regarding the AWU affair , Gillard was critical of The Australian newspaper for writing about her connection to the affair and of what she called " misogynist nut jobs on the internet " . Gillard said that she had been " the subject of a very sexist smear campaign " . In

early October , the Opposition Leader 's wife , Margie Abbott , accused the Gillard Government of a deliberate campaign to smear Tony Abbott , on gender issues .

On 9 October 2012 , Gillard also raised " sexism and misogyny " in a speech opposing a motion to remove Peter Slipper , her choice as Speaker of the House of Representatives , after revelations of inappropriate conduct on his part became public . Gillard linked the speech to the context of the then ongoing Alan Jones " died of shame " controversy. The speech was widely reported around the world . In Laos soon after for an Asian @-@ European leaders conference , Gillard described comments by François Hollande and Helle Thorning @-@ Schmidt : " The president of France congratulated me on the speech , as did the Prime Minister of Denmark , and some other leaders , just casually as I 've moved around , have also mentioned it to me . " US President Barack Obama reportedly " complimented " Gillard on the speech in a private conversation following his re @-@ election , and his Secretary of State , Hillary Clinton , praised the speech as " very striking " with Gillard going " chapter and verse " .

Labor had secured the defection of Slipper from the Liberal National Party of Queensland (LNP) to sit in the Speaker 's chair a year earlier , but he was forced to stand aside from his main duties in April 2012 pending the conclusion of a criminal investigation . After a week of controversy , Gillard announced that she was asking Slipper to delay his return to the Chair pending the conclusion of concurrent civil proceedings , in an effort to dispel what she described as a " dark cloud " over her government (a reference also to the ongoing Craig Thomson affair involving a Labor MP linked to corruption allegations) .

= = = 2012 leadership vote = = =

In the light of poor polling results for the Gillard Government , speculation that Foreign Minister and former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd wished to challenge Gillard for the leadership culminated with Rudd resigning from the Cabinet on 22 February 2012 . Rudd told the media " I can only serve as Foreign Minister if I have the confidence of Prime Minister Gillard and her senior ministers " after Gillard failed to repudiate cabinet ministers who publicly criticised Rudd and his tenure as Prime Minister . The situation had been further exacerbated by the revelation on Four Corners that Gillard 's staff wrote her victory speech for the 2010 leadership election two weeks prior to her challenge , contradicting Gillard 's earlier claims that she had only resolved to challenge Rudd the day before the vote . This revelation caused particular conflict between Labor factions to surface , with Labor MP Darren Cheeseman calling on Gillard to resign , while his colleague Steve Gibbons called Rudd a " psychopath with a giant ego " .

After resigning , Rudd stated that he did not think Gillard could defeat the Coalition at the next election and that , since his resignation , he had received encouragement from Labor MPs and Cabinet Ministers to contest the leadership . Gillard responded to these developments by announcing a leadership ballot for the morning of 27 February 2012 , saying that if she lost the vote she would return to the backbench and renounce any claims to the leadership . She asked that Rudd make the same commitment .

At the leadership ballot , Gillard won comfortably by a vote of 71 to 31 .

= = = March 2013 leadership vote = = =

Despite Gillard 's defeating Kevin Rudd comfortably in the 2012 leadership spill , tensions remained in the Labor Party regarding Gillard 's leadership . After Labor 's polling position worsened in the wake of Gillard announcing the date of the 2013 election , these tensions came to a head when former Labor Leader and Regional Minister Simon Crean called for a leadership spill and backed Rudd on 21 March 2013 . In response , Gillard sacked Crean from his position , and called a leadership spill for 4.30pm that same day .

Ten minutes before the ballot was due to occur , Rudd publicly announced that he would not contest the leadership , in line with the commitment he had made following the 2012 contest . As such , Gillard and Wayne Swan were the only candidates for the Leadership and Deputy Leadership

of the Labor Party , and were elected unopposed . This marked the first time in history that an incumbent Labor Leader was elected unopposed at a leadership ballot . Several ministers subsequently resigned from the government , including Chief Government Whip Joel Fitzgibbon , Human Services Minister Kim Carr , and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson .

Gillard declared that the question of the Labor leadership was now " settled " . Nevertheless , speculation on Gillard 's leadership remained a major issue , with polling results indicating an electoral disaster were she to lead the Labor Party into the election . In light of this , media attention once more turned to Kevin Rudd as a possible replacement in the short term . It was reported that Gillard 's supporter Bill Shorten was under pressure to ask her to resign , creating a vacancy that Rudd would contest .

= = = June 2013 leadership vote = = =

By the end of June 2013 , Labor 's standing in the polls had worsened , and the Coalition had been leading in most opinion polls for two years ; one poll in early June showed that Labor would be reduced to as few as 40 seats after the next election . With a general election due later that year , even some staunch Gillard supporters began to believe that Labor faced almost certain defeat if Gillard continued as leader . According to the ABC 's Barrie Cassidy , the question was not whether Gillard would be ousted as Labor leader , but when the ousting would take place .

Following further speculation over her leadership , on 26 June a rumour emerged that supporters of Kevin Rudd were collecting signatures for a letter demanding an immediate leadership vote . That afternoon , before any letter had been published , Gillard called a leadership spill live on television . She challenged any would @-@ be opponent to join her in a pledge that , while the winner would become leader , the loser would immediately retire from politics . Despite his earlier comments that he would not return to the leadership under any circumstances , Kevin Rudd announced that he would challenge Gillard for the leadership , and committed to retiring from politics if he lost . In the party @-@ room ballot later that evening , Rudd defeated Gillard by a margin of 57 votes to 45 .

= = = Resignation and retirement from politics = = =

Following her defeat in the leadership vote on 26 June 2013 , Gillard congratulated Rudd on his win and announced that she would immediately tender her resignation as Prime Minister to the Governor @-@ General , Quentin Bryce . She also announced , in keeping with her pledge before the leadership vote , that she would not re @-@ contest her seat of Lalor at the upcoming election , and thus would retire from politics . In her final speech , she reflected on the honour of being the first female head of government in Australia and expressed confidence for the future of women leaders in Australia :

There 's been a lot of analysis about the so @-@ called ' gender wars ' . Me playing the so @-@ called ' gender card ' because heavens knows no @-@ one noticed I was a woman until I raised it [...] I 've been a little bit bemused by those colleagues in the newspapers who have admitted that I have suffered more pressure as a result of my gender than other prime ministers in the past but then concluded that it had zero effect on my political position or the political position of the Labor Party . It doesn 't explain everything , it doesn 't explain nothing , it explains some things . And it is for the nation to think in a sophisticated way about those shades of grey . What I am absolutely confident of is it will be easier for the next woman and the woman after that and the woman after that . And I 'm proud of that .

Her resignation as Prime Minister took effect the following day , upon the swearing in of Rudd , and she made her final appearance in the House of Representatives shortly thereafter . Gillard 's parliamentary service ended at the dissolution of the Parliament on 5 August . Subsequent to the federal election held on 7 September 2013 , Gillard was succeeded as the Member for Lalor by her preferred replacement , Joanne Ryan , a former school principal .

= = Political positions = =

= = = Political philosophy = = =

Although nominally a member of the Victorian Left faction of the Labor Party , her election to Prime Minister occurred because of support from the Right factions of the party , with the hard Left planning to support Rudd in the Caucus vote had there actually been one . Analyses of Jacqueline Kent 's 2009 biography of Gillard suggest that her membership in the Left faction is " more organisational than ideological " . In July 2010 , historian Ross Fitzgerald said , " ... at least since [2009] Gillard has sought to reposition herself more towards the Labor Right . "

= = = Civil liberties and democracy = = =

Gillard supports Australia becoming a republic and has suggested that the end of Queen Elizabeth II 's reign would be " probably the appropriate point for a transition " . Following the elevation of republican Malcolm Turnbull to the prime @-@ ministership in September 2015 , Gillard along with Rudd tweeted their support for Peter FitzSimons , the head of the Australian Republican Movement , and his call for new members to join the movement .

Following the November 2010 release of secret United States diplomatic cables , Gillard stated , " I absolutely condemn the placement of this information on the WikiLeaks website . It 's a grossly irresponsible thing to do and an illegal thing to do . " After an Australian Federal Police investigation failed to find WikiLeaks had broken any Australian laws by publishing the US diplomatic documents , Gillard maintained her stance that the release of the documents was " grossly irresponsible " .

= = = Social policy = = =

Gillard , in 2005 , expressed support for legal abortion , saying that " Women without money would be left without that choice or in the hands of backyard abortion providers " and that she understood " the various moral positions " regarding abortions . Pertaining to unplanned pregnancies and counselling , Gillard is of the view that women ought to be counselled by someone of their choice ? as opposed to only trained professionals referred to by their general practitioners . In August 2012 , Gillard reiterated her position in support of abortion , stating that " Women must have the right to healthcare and women must have the right to choose . "

In response to a 2012 report by think @-@ tank Australia 21 , which recommended the relaxation of illicit drug laws in Australia , Gillard rejected the report and claimed that " drugs kill people they rip families apart , they destroy lives ... I am not in favour of decriminalisation of any of our drug laws . "

Concerning euthanasia , Gillard warned that it may " open the door to exploitation and perhaps callousness towards people in the end stage of life " and that she is not convinced that the policy of pro @-@ euthanasia advocates contain " sufficient safeguards " .

Gillard , as a Member of Parliament , voted against a bill that would have legalised same @-@ sex marriage in Australia in 2011 . In 2010 she stated " the Marriage Act is appropriate in its current form , that is recognising that marriage is between a man and a woman " and that marriage being between a man and woman " has a special status " . The triennial Labor conference held in December 2011 saw Gillard successfully negotiate an amendment on same @-@ sex marriage to see the party introduce a conscience vote to parliament through a private member 's bill , rather than a binding vote . When the private members bill was introduced by Labor backbencher Stephen Jones , it was defeated in the House of Representatives on 19 September 2012 . In September 2014 , Gillard said that the " course of human history now is that we are going to see same @-@ sex marriage here and in , you know , most parts of the developed world . " She declared her support for same @-@ sex marriage in August 2015 .

= = Post @-@ political career (2013 ? present) = =

In July 2013 , Gillard signed a book deal for her memoirs with Penguin Australia . The autobiography , *My Story* , was published in 2014 by Random House . In the book , Gillard reflects on various personal aspects of her life and career , including her own analysis of the people and key players during the Rudd ? Gillard Governments . Senator Nick Xenophon was said to have been " infamously excluded from university for a period as punishment for stuffing a ballot box full of voting papers he had somehow procured " , which was denied by Xenophon . In February 2015 , Random House issued a public apology to Xenophon and paid a confidential cash settlement . Following requests from Xenophon for a personal apology from Gillard , on 6 August 2015 she published a personal apology to him in a number of Australian newspapers .

She has been appointed an honorary Visiting Professor of Politics at the University of Adelaide in 2013 , and now resides in Adelaide . In October 2013 , Gillard joined the Brookings Institution 's Center for Universal Education as a nonresident senior fellow . In February 2014 , Gillard was appointed chairwoman of the Global Partnership for Education , an international organisation focused on getting all children into school for a quality education in the world 's poorest countries . In April 2014 , she was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Victoria University , *honoris causa* , for her accomplishments surrounding education and disability reform as a political leader . Later that year , in December , Gillard joined the board of the mental health organisation *beyondblue* , chaired by former Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett .

On 11 February 2015 , Gillard received an honorary doctorate from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel " for her achievements as a woman committed to education and to social inclusion , and for the impact of her commitment on the situation of children , youngsters and women worldwide " ; and she also held a Kapuscinski Development Lecture on " the importance of education in development contexts " at the said university . In June 2015 , Gillard participated in Sarah Ferguson 's *The Killing Season* , a three @-@ part documentary series which chronicles the events of the Rudd ? Gillard years in power . The television series featured in @-@ depth interviews with key Labor Party officials during the Rudd ? Gillard Governments , including Gillard . On 30 June she was conferred with a fellowship from Aberystwyth University in recognition of her " significant contribution to political life " . In October , she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Canberra , for her work in " education and gender equality . "

She has been a supporter of Hillary Clinton 's Democratic Party candidacy for President of the United States , from as early as September 2014 when Gillard announced that she would " loudly barrack from the sidelines " should Clinton run . Gillard congratulated Clinton after she announced her candidacy in April 2015 , and in October of that year , she appeared in a campaign video endorsing the presidential candidate for her leadership surrounding women 's issues . Gillard attended the first day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia on 25 July 2016 , alongside former US Secretary of State , Madeleine Albright .

Following her departure from parliament at the 2013 election , Gillard has remained engaged with the Labor Party . After Labor 's defeat at the federal election held in September 2013 , Gillard penned an op @-@ ed for *Guardian Australia* , wherein she wrote about her legacy and how she believes the Labor Party ought to rebuild . Prior to the 2016 election campaign , Gillard offered her assistance to the Labor party , whereby a video was released of her endorsing and seeking donations for the party 's education policy . She later joined former Labor Prime Ministers Bob Hawke and Paul Keating at Bill Shorten 's Labor campaign launch on 19 June 2016 .

= = Personal life = =

Gillard met Tim Mathieson in 2004 , and they have been in a relationship since 2006 .

Gillard 's mother told ABC TV 's *Australian Story* program that Gillard had spoken from a young age of never wanting children . Gillard herself told the program that while she admired women who could balance child rearing with a career , " I 'm not sure I could have . There 's something in me that 's focused and single @-@ minded and if I was going to do that , I 'm not sure I could have done this . "

Gillard owned a single @-@ storey home in the south @-@ western Melbourne suburb of Altona

which she occupied prior to The Lodge and sold in December 2013 . She is a public supporter of the Western Bulldogs Australian rules football team and the Melbourne Storm rugby league team . She currently resides in Adelaide , in the beachside suburb of Brighton .

Gillard was brought up in the Baptist tradition , but is non @-@ religious . In a 2010 interview , when asked if she believed in God , she stated : " No , I don 't ... I 'm not a religious person ... I 'm a great respecter of religious beliefs but they 're not my beliefs . " In a 2013 interview with The Washington Post , she stated : " I think it would be inconceivable for me if I were an American to have turned up at the highest echelon of American politics being an atheist , single and childless . " In her 2014 autobiography , My Story , Gillard stated , " Kevin had to be the leader in our alliance because I understood that I was not what Labor needed at that point : a woman , not married , an atheist . "

= = = AWU affair = = =

Gillard worked in the industrial department of the law firm Slater & Gordon from 1988 through to 1995 . In the early 1990s , she was in a relationship with Bruce Wilson , an official of the Australian Workers ' Union (AWU) . Gillard provided pro @-@ bono legal assistance to help establish the AWU Workplace Reform Association for Wilson and his associate Ralph Blewitt . She was also involved in providing legal services in relation to the purchase of a Fitzroy property by Wilson and Blewitt . Wilson and Blewitt have been accused of creating the association in order to use a slush fund for personal benefit , including diverting funds for the purchase of the house in Fitzroy .

Slater & Gordon investigated Gillard 's conduct and concluded that Gillard had no case to answer . Gillard has denied any wrongdoing . A subsequent Royal Commission into union corruption found that Gillard had not committed or known of any criminal activity , but had displayed a lapse in professional judgement .

= = Works = =

Gillard , Julia (2014) . My Story . Random House Australia . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 85798 @-@ 391 @-@ 6 .