

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: AWE0958

Housewives Association (Australia) South Australian Division

(1926 -)

Born 1 January, 1926

Occupation Lobby group, Membership organisation, Women's Rights Organisation

Summary

The Housewives Association (Australia) South Australian Division was formed in 1926 Its foundation president was Agnes Goode. The Association's aims were to 'support, protect and raise the status and interests of the home, women and children; to promote and establish co-operation among housewives; to oppose profiteering in every practical manner; to encourage the greater use of Australian-made goods'. (*Housewife*, April 1929) The nature of their aims meant that they were politically active. For instance in 1929 then President, Leonora Polkinghorne, protested against increases to the price of gas by warning them that members would vote against them in the next election. She also stood as an Independent for Sturt in the 1930 election backed by the Women's Non-Party Political Association but was unsuccessful. The Association also had a monthly publication called the *Housewife*, and spoke regularly on the ABC radio station

Details

In support of their aims, the Association lobbied politicians, canvassed support door-to-door; appeared before government enquiries. The Association was non-party political, and included women who were active in both the Australian Labor Party (ALP) and the Liberal Union, and supported their efforts to stand for Parliament. These organisations lobbied governments on a wide range of important issues, and succeeded in achieving some notable legislative reforms.

They lobbied on:

- Changes to the minimum age of marriage for girls. As late as 1927, this was 12 years.
- Equal rights for women in the guardianship and custody of children.
- Equal pay for women.

Published resources

Newsletter

The Housewife, The Housewives' Association, South Australian Division, 1929-1961

Periodical

Homemaker : the official organ of the Housewives Assn. of S.A, Housewives Association (Australia). South Australian Division

Pamphlet

A Full statement of the case in support of the restoration in South Australia of manufacturers' free gift offers and trading stamp discount coupons / presented on behalf of the Housewives' Association, South Australian Division and 10,000 petitioners affiliated with the Committee of the South Australian Women's Trading Benefits Promotion League, [1936]

Book

Fresh evidence, new witnesses : finding women's history, Allen, Margaret (Margaret Ellen), 1947- ; Hutchison, Mary and Mackinnon, Alison, 1942-, 1989

In her own name. A history of women in South Australia from 1836, Helen Jones, 1986

Edited Book

Women in Australia : an annotated guide to records, Daniels, Kay, Murnane, Mary, Picot, Anne and National Research Program (Australia), 1977

Journal Article

The South Australian division of the Housewives' Association: Foundation years 1926-1934., Donovan, Ruth, 2000

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia

Housewives Association, S.A. Division : SUMMARY RECORD

Author Details

Robin Secomb

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