

# The Australian Women's Register

---

Entry type: Person  
Entry ID: IMP0181

## Benjamin, Phyllis Jean

(1907 - 1996)

Born	30 August, 1907, Mosman New South Wales Australia
Died	31 December, 1996
Occupation	Parliamentarian

### Summary

Phyllis Benjamin was appointed a member of the Order of the British Empire on 31 May 1956 for services as a member of the Legislative Council in Tasmania. On 26 January 1977 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). From 1968 to 1969 Benjamin was leader of the Upper House in Tasmania – the first woman in Australia to be appointed to the position.

## Events

### **1950 - 1954**

Member of the Tasmania Labor Party Executive

### **1952 - 1962**

Tasmanian President of the Federal Association Australian Housewives

### **1952 - 1953**

Federal President of the Federal Association Australian Housewives

### **1967 - 1968**

Federal President of the Federal Association Australian Housewives

### **2056 - 2056**

Member of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) (MBE)

### **2026 - 2026**

Married A H Benjamin

### **1952 - 1975**

Member (ALP) of the Tasmanian Legislative Council for the electorate of Hobart

### **1968 - 1969**

Leader of the Upper House (first woman)

### **1956 - 1968**

Deputy leader of the Upper House

### **1972 - 1976**

Deputy Leader of the Upper House

### **1939 - 1945**

Red Cross work

### **1977 - 1977**

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

## Published resources

### **Edited Book**

Who's Who in Australia, 1971, Legge, J S, 1971

Who's Who in Australia 1980, Draper, W. J., 1980

### **Site Exhibition**

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

### **Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### **Author Details**

Anne Heywood

**Created** 18 October 2002

**Last modified** 26 February 2019