

Barton Deakin Brief: Updated Composition of the Australian Federal Parliament

13 November 2017

This Barton Deakin Brief will look at the changing composition of the Federal Parliament in response to recent resignations and disqualifications of a number of Senators and Members of Parliament under s 44(i) of the Constitution.

An appendix is included containing the updated Ministry List for the Turnbull Government.

Background

The High Court of Australia's decision on the 27th of October ruled four Senators and one MP ineligible under s. 44 of the Constitution to sit in Parliament. The ruling disqualified Senator Fiona Nash, Senator Malcolm Roberts, Senator Scott Ludlam, Senator Larissa Waters, and former Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce from the Australian Parliament. Senator the Hon Stephen Parry and the Member for Bennelong, the Hon John Alexander OAM, MP, have also subsequently resigned in response to the ruling.

The government is facing two by-elections in Bennelong and New England as a result. The New England by-election will take place on December 2nd and will be re-contested by Barnaby Joyce. The Bennelong by-election will take place on the 16th of December and be re-contested by John Alexander, pending meeting the eligibility requirements for nomination.

Senator Parry's resignation created a vacancy in the position of President of the Senate. Senator the Hon Scott Ryan has succeeded him. Senator Ryan's portfolio duties as Special Minister of State will be assumed by Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann.

The House of Representatives

The Government now commands 73 votes on the floor of the House, excluding the vote of Speaker, the Hon. Tony Smith MP. The Government has confirmed ongoing support on matters of confidence and supply from Independent Member for Indi, Cathy McGowan MP, and Member for Mayo, Rebekah Sharkie MP (Nick Xenophon Team). Ms. Sharkie is currently investigating her own citizenship circumstances to confirm her eligibility under s. 44.

As a result, the current composition of the House of Representatives is now:

Party	Seats
Coalition	73 [+ 1 Speaker]
Labor	69
Adam Bandt – Greens	1
Rebekah Sharkie – Nick Xenophon Team	1
Bob Katter	1
Andrew Wilkie	1
Cathy McGowan	1
Vacant (Seats of New England and Bennelong)	2

The Senate



On Monday the Governor-General swore in three new Senators to replace Malcolm Roberts (Queensland – One Nation), Scott Ludlam (Western Australia – The Greens), and Larissa Waters (Queensland – The Greens). A further hearing will be conducted to confirm the eligibility of Hollie Hughes to be elected as a replacement for departing Senator Fiona Nash (NSW - National).

The three new senators were sworn in on Monday by the Governor-General are:

Jordan Steele-John (Western Australia - The Greens)

Jordan Steele-John is a 23-year-old disability advocate. Prior to being elected on recount he stood for The Greens in the 2013 WA State election in the seat of Warnbro, the 2013 Federal election in the seat of Fremantle, and the 2014 half-senate election. Steele-John, who has cerebral palsy, is completing a Bachelor of Politics from Macquarie University. His policy priorities are identified as climate change, accessible education, and affordable housing.

Andrew Bartlett (Queensland - The Greens)

Andrew Bartlett was endorsed as a Greens Senate candidate in 2016. Andrew failed to gain a quota at the election, but as second on the Greens Senate ticket was elected to replace Larissa Waters on countback. Andrew most recently worked as a Research Fellow with the ANU's migration law program. Andrew previously served as a Senator for Queensland from 1997-2008 representing the Australian Democrats. Prior to entering the Senate in 1997, Andrew worked as a social worker and as a political staffer for Cheryl Kernot and John Woodley.

Andrew has a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Queensland.

Fraser Anning (Queensland - Independent)

Fraser Anning was third on the One Nation Senate ticket and was elected on countback on 10 November 2017. Prior to entering parliament, Fraser Anning worked as a publican with his wife based in Gladstone in Central Queensland.

He has since announced his intention to sit as an Independent, rather than a One Nation Senator.

The new make-up of the Senate is displayed below. Three vacancies are yet to be formally filled, Nick Xenophon (SA), Fiona Nash (NSW), and Stephen Parry (Tasmania).

Party	Seats
Coalition	27 [+ 2 Vacant]
Labor	26
Greens	9
One Nation	3
Independent	2
Nick Xenophon Team	2 [+ 1 Vacant]
The Jacqui Lambie Network	1
Liberal Democratic Party	1
Derryn Hinch's Justice Party	1
Australian Conservatives	1

Further Information



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Appendix: Coalition Government Ministry

TITLE	MINISTER
Prime Minister	The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Minister for Indigenous Affairs	Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion
Minister for Women	Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
<i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service</i>	<i>Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash</i>
<i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Counter-Terrorism</i>	<i>The Hon Michael Keenan MP</i>
<i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security</i>	<i>The Hon Dan Tehan MP</i>
<i>Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister</i>	<i>Senator the Hon James McGrath</i>
<i>Assistant Minister for Regulatory Reform</i>	<i>Senator the Hon James McGrath</i>
<i>Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation</i>	<i>The Hon Angus Taylor MP</i>
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources	The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
<i>Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources</i>	<i>Senator the Hon Anne Ruston</i>
<i>Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources</i>	<i>The Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP</i>
Minister for Foreign Affairs	The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment	The Hon Steven Ciobo MP
Minister for International Development and the Pacific	Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells
<i>Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment</i>	<i>The Hon Keith Pitt MP</i>
Attorney-General (Vice-President of the Executive Council) (Leader of the Government in the Senate) Minister for Justice	Senator the Hon George Brandis QC
Treasurer	The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Minister for Revenue and Financial Services	The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP
Minister for Small Business	The Hon Michael McCormack MP
<i>Assistant Minister to the Treasurer</i>	<i>The Hon Michael Sukkar MP</i>
Minister for Finance (Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate) A/g Special Minister of State	Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Deputy Leader of the House)	The Hon Darren Chester MP
A/g Minister for Regional Development	The Hon Darren Chester MP
A/g Minister for Local Government and Territories	The Hon Darren Chester MP
Minister for Urban Infrastructure	The Hon Paul Fletcher MP
Minister for Defence	Senator the Hon Marise Payne
Minister for Defence Industry (Leader of the House)	The Hon Christopher Pyne MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs	The Hon Dan Tehan MP
<i>Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC</i>	<i>The Hon Dan Tehan MP</i>
Minister for Defence Personnel	The Hon Dan Tehan MP
Minister for Immigration and Border Protection <i>Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection</i>	The Hon Peter Dutton MP <i>The Hon Alex Hawke MP</i>
Minister for Health	The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Sport	The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Aged Care	The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP
Minister for Indigenous Health	The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP
<i>Assistant Minister for Health</i>	<i>The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP</i>
Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science	Senator the Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO
Minister for Resources and Northern Australia	Senator the Hon Matt Canavan
<i>Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science</i>	<i>The Hon Craig Laundry MP</i>
Minister for Communications	Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield
Minister for the Arts (Manager of Government Business in the Senate)	Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield
A/g Minister for Regional Communications	Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield
Minister for Employment	Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash

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TITLE	MINISTER
Minister for Social Services	The Hon Christian Porter MP
Minister for Human Services	The Hon Alan Tudge MP
<i>Assistant Minister for Social Services and Disability Services</i>	<i>The Hon Jane Prentice MP</i>
<i>Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs</i>	<i>Senator the Hon Zed Seselja</i>
Minister for Education and Training	Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham
<i>Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills</i>	<i>The Hon Karen Andrews MP</i>
Minister for the Environment and Energy	The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP