

July 2025

# The New Parliament

An Overview of the New Members Entering Parliament this Term

# Introduction

A large number of new members of Parliament will be taking their seats later this month.

Out of 226 seats in the federal Parliament, thirty-eight will be occupied by first-time MPs. Two MPs have switched chambers, while one other has returned to the House after a three-year absence.

There are 32 new members of the House, plus one member who has been returned after a three-year absence. One of these members was a senator until resigning to contest the House of Representatives. This group includes 25 Labor MPs, 4 Liberal MPs, 3 Nationals MPs and one independent.

Nine new senators have joined the Senate, including one member of the House of Representatives who successfully contested the Senate after her House seat was abolished. This group includes one senator appointed in May to fill a vacancy created when his predecessor ran for the House. This group includes six Labor senators, two One Nation senators and one Liberal senator.

With the Parliament set to resume on July 22, this brief profiles some of those new MPs who may be prominent in coming years.

# Profiles

## Basem Abdo (Labor, Calwell)

Basem Abdo was preselected by the ALP to replace long-serving member Maria Vamvakinou in the northern Melbourne seat of Calwell.

Calwell has one of the highest proportions of Muslims of any electorate in the country, and the highest proportion of any seat in Melbourne. Calwell covers suburbs in the outer north of Melbourne including Broadmeadows, Greenvale and Yuroke.

Abdo is one of a handful of Muslim federal MPs, and is the first Australian MP of Palestinian heritage. Abdo was born in Kuwait, moving to Melbourne in 1991.

Abdo is a qualified teacher, and also worked as an advisor to his predecessor in Calwell, Maria Vamvakinou.

Abdo faced competition from multiple independent candidates in 2025. Despite polling just over 30% of the first preference vote, Abdo ended up winning his seat quite comfortably with a 5.1% margin over independent Carly Moore.

Abdo is a member of the Labor Left faction, and was endorsed for preselection by outgoing MP Maria Vamvakinou.

## Nicolette Boele (Independent, Bradfield)

Nicolette Boele was elected as the independent member for Bradfield in 2025, defeating Liberal candidate Gisele Kapterian by just 26 votes after a recount.

Boele has worked on energy efficiency and climate projects throughout her career, including within the New South Wales state government and not-for-profit organisations.

Boele was Executive Manager of Responsible Investment Association Australasia from 2015 to 2021, and also served as an expert adviser for the Smart Energy Council's electrification campaign. She has also sat on the advisory board of the Good Car Company.

The seat of Bradfield covers the upper north shore of Sydney, including the Ku-ring-gai council area and parts of the Willoughby council area. The main suburbs include Wahroonga, Chatswood, Turramurra, Pymble and Gordon.

Bradfield was once a blue-ribbon safe Liberal seat, having previously been held by former Liberal leader Brendan Nelson and prominent frontbencher Paul Fletcher, who retired in 2025.

Boele first contested Bradfield in 2022. While the focus was on the neighbouring seats of North Sydney and Mackellar, Boele came within 4.2% of defeating Fletcher. Boele stuck around, branding herself the "Shadow member for Bradfield" and continuing to campaign throughout the last term.

The redistribution abolished the neighbouring seat of North Sydney, dragging Bradfield south towards Chatswood and adding strong independent-voting areas to Bradfield. Boele gained a small swing, and ultimately prevailed by the slimmest margin in the country after a careful recount.

### **Jessica Collins (Liberal, NSW Senate)**

Jessica Collins is a new Liberal senator representing New South Wales.

Collins defeated outgoing senator Hollie Hughes for the safe second seat on the Coalition ticket in New South Wales, and thus replaced Hughes in the Senate as of July 1.

Collins is a member of the National Right faction of the Liberal Party. Her preselection was endorsed by Angus Taylor, and ousted a moderate in Hollie Hughes.

Collins was born in New Zealand before moving to Sydney as a child.

She previously worked as an academic and researcher with a particular interest in Australia's Pacific strategy. Collins first studied at the University of Sydney before completing a PhD in Anthropology at the Queensland University of Technology. She completed a masters in global development at Griffith University in 2021.

She has a particular interest in international relations and international development. She has previously written critically about the Australian government's failure to sanction Myanmar, and on the need for more development funding for Pacific Islands women.

### **Ali France (Labor, Dickson)**

Ali France won the seat of Dickson on the northern fringe of Brisbane in 2025, famously defeating opposition leader Peter Dutton.

France was born in South Africa, but grew up in Queensland. Her father was a Labor state MP representing Southport on the Gold Coast.

France worked as a journalist and a communications advisor prior to her election to parliament. She was struck by a car in 2011, leaving her with a disability and using a wheelchair. France went on to represent Australia at the Outrigger Canoe World Sprint Championships, winning two team gold medals and a silver medal.

France has had two children - one of her children passed away from leukemia in 2024.

Dickson covers parts of the Moreton Bay council area, going right up to the border with the City of Brisbane. The seat covers suburbs such as Ferny Hills, Albany Creek, Strathpine and Petrie.

Peter Dutton held the seat of Dickson since 2001, when he defeated former Democrats leader Cheryl Kernot, who had become a Labor MP. The seat had regularly changed hands before Dutton's victory. While he held the seat for a quarter-century, the seat was never particularly safe.

France had challenged Dutton twice before, in 2019 and 2022, reducing Dutton's margin to just 1.7% in 2022. France now holds Dickson by a 6.0% margin.

France is a member of the Labor Left faction.

### **Madonna Jarrett (Labor, Brisbane)**

Madonna Jarrett won the inner city seat of Brisbane in 2025, defeating one-term Greens MP Stephen Bates in her second attempt at the seat.

Jarrett grew up locally, working as a radiographer and then as a director at Deloitte before winning her seat in Parliament.

Jarrett had previously contested Brisbane at the 2022 election, when she came second on first preference votes but was overtaken by Bates, who outpolled her by 1.7% on the three-candidate-preferred count. Jarrett outpolled Bates on this count by 6.2% in 2025, and went on to easily defeat the LNP's Trevor Evans with the benefit of Greens preferences.

Brisbane covers central suburbs of the Brisbane urban area, including Paddington, Ashgrove, Fortitude Valley and Clayfield. This area includes some of the largest LGBTI+ communities in Queensland, and both of Jarrett's 2025 opponents (and predecessors) are gay. She has also been an advocate of LGBTI+ rights.

Jarrett has two children with her husband.

Jarrett is a member of the Labor Left faction.

### **Zhi Soon (Labor, Banks)**

Zhi Soon won the southern Sydney seat of Banks in 2025, defeating senior shadow minister David Coleman on a second attempt.

Banks covers parts of the St George and Bankstown areas in southern Sydney, including the suburbs of East Hills, Hurstville, Lugarno, Mortdale, Oatley, Padstow, Panania and Revesby.

Soon was born in Kuala Lumpur, but grew up in the local area, first in Hurstville and then in Revesby. He worked in Kevin Rudd's prime ministerial office, and as a diplomat in Afghanistan. He worked in the Behavioural Insights Unit for the NSW government and the similar Behavioural Insights Team in the UK. Soon was a member of the NSW Board of Studies.

Soon is an expert in education policy, having worked on education in his various stints in behavioural insights units. Prior to his first campaign, he worked at the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership.

Soon first contested Banks in 2022, polling 46.8% of the two-party-preferred vote, before defeating Coleman in 2025 with a 3.2% margin.

### **Warwick Stacey (One Nation, NSW Senate)**

Warwick Stacey is a new One Nation senator representing New South Wales.

Stacey was born in 1952, making him the oldest new member of the Australian parliament. He is the oldest member of the Senate, with just two older members in the House. Stacey was born and raised in Australia, but has worked overseas.

Stacey served in the British Army, serving in the Parachute Regiment and 22 SAS, and later joined the Australian Army Reserve. He went on to work as a military contractor in the Middle East. Stacey speaks German and is an accredited translator, and has worked in crisis and risk management.

He previously contested the 2017 New England by-election for the Seniors United Party, and unsurprisingly has very conservative views.

Stacey had a very low profile prior to his election in 2025. Along with Tyron Whitten in Western Australia, they are the only One Nation senators to ever win a seat outside of Queensland at a half-Senate election.

### **Tim Wilson (Liberal, Goldstein)**

Tim Wilson holds the seat of Goldstein in the inner south of Melbourne. Wilson first held the seat from 2016 until 2022, when he was defeated by independent candidate Zoe Daniel. Wilson contested Goldstein again in 2025, and narrowly won the seat back with a 1.9% swing. His margin is just 0.08%, winning by 175 votes.

Goldstein covers the Bayside council area in southern Melbourne, along with surrounding areas. Key suburbs include Sandringham, Brighton, Hampton and Beaumaris.

Goldstein was once a blue-ribbon safe Liberal seat. Wilson's three predecessors all served as ministers in Liberal governments.

Wilson attended Monash University, during which time he was president of the student union on the Caulfield campus. Wilson was prominent prior to being elected as policy director for the Institute of Public Affairs.

Wilson was appointed as a Human Rights Commissioner in 2014 by the Abbott government, during which time he advocated for libertarian concepts.

Wilson won the seat of Goldstein in 2016 upon the retirement of Andrew Robb. Wilson served as an assistant minister from 2021 until his defeat in 2022.

Wilson is gay and has been married since 2018. Wilson was a campaigner for same-sex marriage in the lead-up to the plebiscite, held one year after his first election.

Wilson is a member of the Moderate faction. He supported Malcolm Turnbull against Peter Dutton in the first 2018 spill, and then supported Scott Morrison. He supported Sussan Ley against Angus Taylor in the 2025 leadership spill.

Wilson is the only Liberal MP to represent a fully urban seat in the Melbourne urban area, and is the only Liberal MP to represent an inner urban electorate across Australia.



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