

AUSTRALIAN SENATE LECTURE SERIES

# President's lecture



## Virginia Haussegger AM

### 30 Shades of Grey and Grievance: Women, Politics and the Gender Card


If political leadership were a card game, it is one in which men are repeatedly dealt the winning hand from a weighted pack of gender cards. How else do we explain why Australia has anointed 30 men as Prime Minister since 1901, and only one woman? Does gender under-representation matter in a liberal democracy, or does the malapportionment of maleness merit more? Does gender explain everything, nothing, or some things? And how do we talk about those shades of grey in a media culture that's crudely black and white?



**Virginia Haussegger AM** is an award-winning broadcast journalist and gender equity advocate whose extensive media career spans three decades, reporting from around the globe for Channel 9, the Seven Network and the ABC. She has anchored primetime national news and current affairs programs, including 15 years presenting ABC TV News in Canberra.

In 2017 Virginia established a gender equality research initiative at the University of Canberra, where she is an Adjunct Professor and founded the media platform BroadAgenda, serving as Chief Editor to 2021.


A former Fairfax columnist, Virginia's commentary is widely published across Australian media. She is Deputy Chair of the media think-tank PIJI, the Public Interest Journalism Initiative, and a judge in the 2024 Walkley Awards. She is also a proud Ambassador of the Stella Prize, supporting women's writing. A Member of the Order of Australia for services to the media and gender equity, in 2019 Virginia was named ACT Australian of the Year.

 **Friday 28 June 2024**

 **12.15pm – 1.15pm**

 **Theatre, Parliament House**

 **Free event**

 **Senate Procedure Office**  
02 6277 3072  
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## Senator the Hon Sue Lines — President of the Senate

Senator Sue Lines was elected President of the Senate at the opening of the 47th Parliament in 2022, marking a significant milestone in her career as a Senator representing Western Australia since 2013. Notably, she is the first female Labor President of the Senate and the second only female President after Liberal Senator Margaret Reid in 1996. In her time in the Senate she has represented Australia at the United Nations Women's Forum in New York City, delivered statements as national delegation leader at the Women Political Leaders Reykjavik Global Forum and has produced reports calling for gender equality at the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.



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