

Patrons:
Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC, President of
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Western Australian Parliamentary Former Members Association

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Former Members of the WA Parliament decided, in the early 1980s, that there was value in forming an association for former members to continue their relationships that were forged in the Parliament, after they had ceased being a member.

There are many that leave the Parliament who, for whatever reason, have varied feelings about politics and the experience of having been “a Rooster and so quickly a Feather Duster”. Some may never want to venture into the Parliament building again.

Conversely, it seems that as time passes, many actually miss the camaraderie they experienced in the limited “club” that is the Parliament of WA and appreciate the opportunity of mixing with people of all political viewpoints in a nonpartisan manner.

The WA Parliamentary Former Members Association (WAPFMA) meets regularly and informally for lunch, usually in March/April; June/July and October. Often guest speakers are invited to attend to talk about all manner of things, not necessarily related to politics. Partners/Spouses do not attend these lunches but are always welcome to come along to the association’s annual Christmas lunch.

We have, since 2021, held a cocktail river cruise on the Swan River in the first quarter of every year, available to all former members and their families and occasionally current members join us if numbers permit.

The WAPFMA also acts as a spokesperson/lobbyist to help protect entitlements and privileges of former members of the WA Parliament.

The WAPFMA is grateful to the Parliament for affording us the privilege of using the Parliamentary website to inform people of our existence. We are also appreciative of the facilities at Parliament House that are exclusively available for the use of former members.

An annual subscription is payable at the beginning of each financial year and the monies received subsidise the overall cost of our functions, thus keeping the cost to members at a reasonable level.

Each member of the association is given a lapel badge which indicates their status as a former member. In addition, each member is given a former members handbook; information about entitlements in WA and other Parliamentary jurisdictions in Australia and sent a regular newsletter and/or information updates.

The President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly are Patrons of the Association and are always willing to listen to our concerns and act upon them if possible.