

Martin Foley

Biography

Martin Foley MP has been a Labor Party member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly since 2007 representing the Albert Park electorate.

With a BA (Hons) in History and Politics from Monash University and a Master of Commerce (Hons) from The University of Melbourne, Martin's career of public service has been defined by his strong commitment to improving outcomes for the most vulnerable members of our community and advocating for social justice reform.

Prior to entering Parliament, Martin was engaged as a Community Development Worker in public housing before undertaking leadership positions at the Australian Services Union. Following this time, he took on the roles of Chief of Staff to the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Since entering Parliament in 2007 following a by-election for the seat of Albert Park, Martin has dedicated himself to building quality local schools to give kids the best start in life, investing in public transport, and planning vibrant and connected communities that celebrate equality and embrace diversity.

As Member for Albert Park, highlights include delivering on the opening of two new Primary Schools, a Secondary College at Port Melbourne, opening and expanding Albert Park College, investing in the upgrade of all our existing schools, restoring the Palais Theatre, redeveloping the historic St Kilda Pier, and developing the Victorian Pride Centre in St Kilda.

In 2013, Martin was appointed Shadow Minister for Water, Arts, and Youth Affairs. He also became the Shadow Minister for the Equality portfolio – the first in Australia – created to support, celebrate and advocate for LGBTIQ+ Victorians.

Following the election of the Andrews Government in 2014, Martin entered Cabinet taking on the roles of Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Creative Industries and Minister for Equality. During this term, he led landmark change including the campaign for marriage equality, the introduction of voluntary assisted dying legislation, and the opening of the supervised injecting room. Martin was at the forefront of the delivery of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health system – the biggest social policy commitment to be made to date by the Andrews Government, along with the introduction into Victoria of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

On re-election in 2018, Martin continued in the roles of Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Creative Industries and Minister for Equality until being appointed to the roles of Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services in September 2020 in the midst of a global pandemic. As Minister for Health, Martin remained deeply committed to supporting recovery from the pandemic as an opportunity for growing and reforming our public health system.

In June 2022, Martin announced he would retire after 15 years of service at the November State Election. He stepped down from his ministerial roles on 27 June 2022 to focus his full attention on delivering for the local community.

A dedicated sports fan and supporter of the Arts and Creative Sector, Martin is a faithful St Kilda Football Club member (remaining hopeful of seeing a premiership in his lifetime). His love of sport and creative sectors intersected with his Parliamentary duties as convenor of the Parliamentary Friends of Cricket and his sponsorship of local arts and creative organisations.