

# Martin Foley | Biography

Martin Foley's career in government, community and the Labor movement has been marked by leadership in helping to shape a more equal and inclusive Australia. As a former politician and Member of Parliament in the State of Victoria, Martin was first elected as Member for Albert Park in 2007, holding the seat until his retirement from politics in 2022.

With a BA (Hons) in History and Politics from Monash University and a Master of Commerce (Hons) from The University of Melbourne; coupled with a background in the community sector and Trade Union movement, Martin has a wide experience in governance, service delivery and practice in social and human services. Martin has been acknowledged for this work as recipient of the Centenary Medal for his services to Occupational Health and Safety.

## Political Career

During Martin's fifteen years as an MP, he served as a senior Cabinet Minister and reformer in the Andrews Labor Government undertaking a range of key positions - most notably as Minister for Health leading the State response to the health challenges that the COVID-19 Global Pandemic generated for our Health Services and wider community.

Martin's portfolio roles were:

- *Minister for Health*
- *Mental Health*
- *Minister for Ambulance Services*
- *Minister for Equality*
- *Minister for the Coordination of Health and Human Services: COVID-19*
- *Minister for Creative Industries*
- *Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing*
- *Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader of the Opposition on Equality*
- *Shadow Minister for the Arts December*
- *Shadow Minister for Water*
- *Shadow Minister for Youth Affairs*
- *Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition*
- *Parliamentary Secretary to the Shadow Ministers for Environment and Planning*

Key achievements:

- *Leading Victoria's effort to respond to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic whilst Minister for Health*
- *Delivering the landmark Royal Commission into our Mental Health System - a blueprint for the sector both in Victoria and nationally.*
- *As Australia's first Minister for Equality, driving community organisation and legislative reform for LGBTIQ Victorians to make Victoria the Equality State (including being instrumental in the building of Australia's first Pride Centre).*
- *Helping to shape the establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme as a collaborative process between people with disabilities, States and the Commonwealth – whilst highlighting the need for wider reform for service delivery to achieve the scheme's goals.*
- *Expanding the provision of social housing and State delivered aged care.*
- *Leading the policy and investment program to bring together Victoria's cultural, arts, screen and digital and design communities into a "whole of government" strategy that placed the economic and social contribution on the same footing as the cultural and creative contributions.*

Martin is a member of a range of community and professional organisations and is a faithful St Kilda Football Club member (remaining hopeful of seeing a premiership in his lifetime).