Senator the Hon. Jan McLucas

Shadow Minister for Mental Health
Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness

Senator for Queensland

Jan lives in Cairns, and has lived in North Queensland for most of her life. She trained as a primary teacher at Townsville College of Advanced Education (now James Cook Uni), where she became active in the student union. She has taught at various towns in North Queensland. Jan has been active in the Queensland Teachers Union and served as Secretary of the Cairns and District Provincial Trades and Labor Council in the late 1980s.


Jan is well known for her previous role as Chair of the Senate Community Affairs References Committee and has chaired two Select Committee Inquiries into Medicare and more recently, the ground-breaking Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care. Other inquiries include examination of the Tobacco Advertising Regime and the current Aged Care service delivery. Jan was seconded to the Rural, Regional Affairs and Transport Inquiry for the Inquiry into BioSecurity Australia’s Import Risk Assessment Process for Bananas given the importance of that industry to North Queensland.

As a member of the Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs, her policy making and consultation skills are helping shape a post-ATSIC model of governance for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Jan was Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing from 2007-2009, she was then appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers. In March 2012, she took on the additional responsibility of Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.

In the March 2013 reshuffle Jan was promoted to Minister for Human Services.

Following the 2013 Federal election, Jan was elected to the Shadow Ministry and appointed Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness.