

The Hon. Bill Shorten

Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation

Member for Maribyrnong



Bill Shorten was born in Melbourne in 1967. He holds Arts and Law degrees from Monash University and a Master of Business Administration from the Melbourne Business School.

Bill joined the Victorian Branch of the Australian Workers' Union as an organiser in 1994, and was involved in campaigns that attracted new members to the AWU from industries as diverse as oil and gas, fruit pickers, manufacturing workers and jockeys. Bill became Secretary of the Victorian Branch in 1997.

In 2001, he was elected AWU National Secretary and re-elected Victorian Secretary. Re-elected to both positions in 2005, Bill stepped down from his Victorian role in August 2006 to focus his energies as National Secretary and to lead the fight against Workchoices. He is credited with reforming and reviving the AWU's reach, power and membership, within an era of union membership being in decline. Bill's public profile was raised during the Beaconsfield Mine collapse in Tasmania 2006 and in 2007, Bill was elected to the Seat of Maribyrnong. He has argued for an industry policy to help rebuild Australia's manufacturing industry, and has indicated that sustainability of workplaces means embracing Climate Change and changing traditional attitudes and practises towards manufacturing.

Bill was President of the Victorian Branch of the ALP from 2005-2008, and remains a member of the ALP National Executive. Bill was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services in 2007, and in 2009 the Prime Minister allocated to him the additional responsibility of Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction. After the 2010 election, Bill served in the Ministry as Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation until December 2011, when he was promoted to Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation.

Bill is married with three children.