

# The Hon. Brendan O'Connor MP

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*Minister for Small Business*

*Minister for Housing and Homelessness*



## **Member for Gorton**

Brendan O'Connor was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2001 as the Member for Burke.

At the 2004 Federal election, Brendan was elected to the newly created electoral division of Gorton, a position he continues to hold.

Brendan has served as Deputy Chair of the Public Works Committee and the Employment and Workplace Participation Committee. From January 2006 he chaired Labor's Industrial Relations Taskforce enquiring into the Howard Government's controversial Work Choices legislation.

Brendan served as the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Industrial Relations from December 2006 until the election of the Rudd Government, when he was appointed as Minister for Employment Participation. In the June 2009 reshuffle, Brendan became Minister for Home Affairs.

Following the 2010 federal election, Julia Gillard added further responsibilities to his portfolio to include Justice, Privacy and Freedom of Information. In December 2011, Brendan was appointed to the positions of Minister for Human Services and Minister Assisting for School Education.

In the March 2012 reshuffle, Brendan was elevated to Cabinet as Minister for Small Business, Housing and Homelessness.

Prior to entering Parliament, Brendan was a union official from 1986 to 2001, and was Assistant National Secretary of the Australian Services Union from 1993 to 2001.

Brendan holds a BA and a LLB from Monash University, and a Diploma, Harvard Trade Union Program, Harvard University.