

LHSSA members and supporters - Notice of May 25 meeting

The Box Factory Community Centre, 59 Regent St (Sth) Adelaide

Sunday 25 May 2 – 4 pm.

The Politics of Gender Equality



**Emerita Prof Carol
Johnson**

University of Adelaide's **Emerita Professor Carol Johnson** will speak about how gender equality policy has affected women's employment issues over the last 50 years in Australia. Her latest book *The Politics of Gender Equality* was published last year and is available on open access (and as a hardcover book). Its focus is on federal politics in Australia since the 1970s with chapters covering Whitlam and Fraser, Hawke and Keating, Howard, Rudd and Gillard, Abbott, Turnbull and Morrison, and Albanese.

Following her talk, there will be a QandA session

The book is available (open access) at [The Politics of Gender Equality: Australian Lessons in an Uncertain World | SpringerLink](#)

This open access book provides the first in-depth study of the development of federal gender equality politics and policy in Australia from the 1970s to the present day.

Australia has a history of gender equality innovation, including granting women's suffrage long before equivalent countries. From the 1970s on, it became the first country to introduce a women's adviser, femocrats (feminist bureaucrats) and gender responsive budgeting but then fell behind, partly due to the influence of Anglosphere neoliberalism.

However, the Albanese government has pledged to make Australia a world leader in gender equality again. The book situates Australia in an international context, assessing the useful, though sometimes salutary, lessons which the Australian experience provides. It engages with key literature, including feminist political theory, discursive framing analysis, gendered public policy analysis, LBGTIQ+ issues, path

dependency, and gender and leadership. It will interest academics, undergraduate and postgraduate researchers, public policy experts and practitioners, and a broader readership interested in issues of gender equality.

The book makes innovative contributions to the study of the politics of gender equality policy, addressing what a gender equality policy agenda could look like if the needs of women, in all their intersectional social diversity, were the driving force. In doing so, it addresses a range of issues that are impacting the future of women, including an ongoing pandemic, technology, education and training agendas, issues of sovereign capability, securitisation, climate change and the growth of campaigns that oppose so-called "gender ideology". It explores how current government agendas, such as the focus on wellbeing, could be made even more gender-inclusive.

Finally, the book suggests that Australia, as a multicultural but predominantly Western, settler-colonial society situated in the Asia-Pacific has some potentially unique insights to offer in a world facing major geoeconomic and geopolitical change.