

MEDIA RELEASE

AMONG THE CHOSEN

The life story of Pat Giles

BY LEKKIE HOPKINS

AND LYNN ROARTY

**WITH A FOREWORD BY JOAN KIRNER AND
CHERYL DAVENPORT**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Pat Giles was dedicated to improving the lives of the disadvantaged. As an ALP Senator in the Hawke and Keating governments, she entered Parliament, not as a raw recruit, but as an experienced trade unionist, policy maker, feminist campaigner and grassroots activist.

This is the story of a woman whose determination never faltered, whose work ethic never flagged. It is the story of an activist working from within the established order to effect social change.

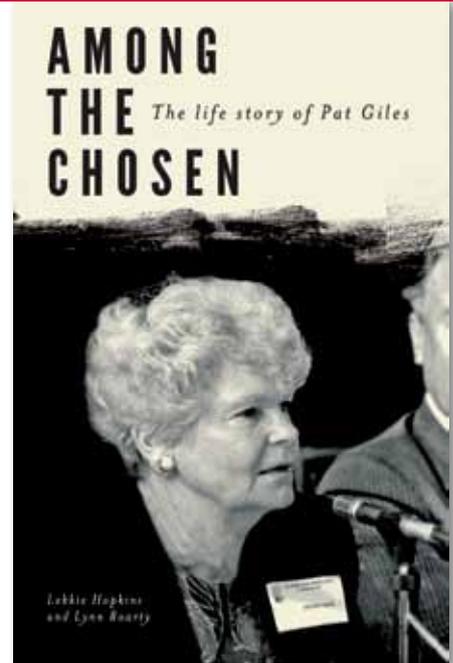
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

In a past life Lynne Roarty worked on the night staff at Federal *Hansard*, transcribing parliamentary sittings. Her time there overlapped with that of Senator Pat Giles with whom she shares a concern for issues around the social determinants of women's health. Lynne is currently a Research Associate at Curtin University's National Drug Research Institute.

Dr Lekkie Hopkins is a feminist academic in the Women's Studies programme in the School of Psychology and Social Science at Edith Cowan University. Her professional background is as an archivist, radio broadcaster, oral historian, literary critic and teacher. She is particularly interested in the history of social protest and in exploring creative ways to undertake and present academic research.

MEDIA NOTES

- *Among the Chosen* documents, for the first time, the life of one of Australia's unsung heroes.
- The book's foreword is by former Victorian Premier Joan Kirner and Academic and former Western Australian MP, Dr Cheryl Davenport.
- Pat Giles was the first woman to be elected to the WA Trades and Labor Council, chaired the first women's committee of the Australian Council of Trades and represented Australia at the United Nations General Assembly.
- She was voted one of WA's three most influential ALP senators and helped draft the National Women's Health Strategy with Jenny Macklin and Susan Ryan.
- On 26 January 2010, Pat Giles was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the community in the interests of women.
- One of her favourite expressions is 'give a woman an inch and she'll park a car in it'.



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