The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP - Biography

The Hon Kristina Keneally MP is the Member for Heffron in the New South Wales Parliament.

First elected in 2003, Kristina served as the 42nd Premier of New South Wales and the first woman Premier in the state from 2009 to 2011.

She has also had the privilege of serving the people of New South Wales as a Minister in the portfolios of Planning, Infrastructure, Disability Services, Ageing, World Youth Day and Redfern Waterloo.

In Government, Kristina oversaw the biggest expansion of disability services in the state’s history through the historic partnership program Stronger Together. She also drove the development of urban renewal projects, such as Barangaroo - a 22 ha, $6 billion redevelopment in Sydney’s CBD - and delivered lower public transport fares through the introduction of MyZone. As Chair of the Council for the Australian Federation, the group of first ministers, Kristina played a key role in negotiating the National Health Reform Agreement.

She holds a BA in Political Science (Hons) and a MA in Religious Studies, and has published academic and other articles on her area of specialty, feminist theology. She has also worked as the NSW Youth Coordinator for the Society of St Vincent de Paul and taught at a Catholic school in a 'teacher shortage area' in rural New Mexico.

Like 40% of the people who live in the electorate of Heffron, Kristina was born overseas. The child of an Australian mother and an American father, Kristina grew up in the United States and moved permanently to Sydney in 1994, and married her husband Ben in 1996.

Kristina and her family have lived in the South Sydney area for more than a decade. She is an ardent South Sydney Rabbitohs fan and a Board member of Souths Cares, the charitable arm of the Rabbitohs Club.

Kristina is the Chairman of the Board of Basketball Australia, the governing and controlling body for the sport of basketball in Australia. BA runs the national leagues, national teams and national junior championships. As a nation, Australia is currently ranked fifth in the world by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

She is also an Ambassador for Opportunity International Australia, which provides microfinance services to the very poor in India, Indonesia and the Philippines. She serves as an Ambassador for the NSW Cancer Survivors Centre and is a member of the Advisory Board of Government Media, publishers of Government Magazine. She regularly writes for national publications, and appears as a frequent commentator on Sky News and the ABC.

Kristina is the mother of 3 children: Daniel (aged 13), Brendan (aged 11), and Caroline, who was stillborn. Kristina serves as Patron of The Stillbirth Foundation, promoting awareness, understanding, support and research into stillbirth.