



HON. JEFF KENNETT PRESIDENT

Jeffrey Gibb Kennett AC is a former Australian politician who served as the 43rd Premier of Victoria between 1992 and 1999, Leader of the Victorian Liberal Party from 1982 to 1989 and from 1991 to 1999, and the Member for Burwood from 1976 to 1999.

Conscripted into the Australian Army in 1968, he was identified as 'officer material' early in his career, and went on to graduate third in his class from Officer Training.

Jeff served overseas in Malaya and Singapore between 1968-70 as Platoon Commander of 1 Platoon A company within 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR)

On discharge, he returned to civilian life in 1970 and started his own advertising company. During this time he developed an interest in politics, and went on to be elected the Liberal Member for Burwood in 1976.

In 1981 he was promoted to Cabinet as Minister for Housing and Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs before being elected leader of the Liberal Party and hence Leader of the Opposition in October 1982.

After leaving politics, he became Chairman of Beyond Blue, the National Depression Initiative in the year 2000, serving until 2017, calling it 'his most important role, outside his family'.



He has been Chairman of The Torch, an organisation that works with Incarcerated Indigenous men and women, and on their release. He continues to have several roles in commercial organisations, listed and unlisted, as a director and or Chairman, and served on the board of Australian Seniors Finance.

He served as President of the Hawthorn Football Club from 2005 to 2011 and then again from 2017 to 2022.

In the Australia Day Honours of 2005, Jeff was made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for 'service to the Victorian Parliament and the introduction of initiatives for economic and social benefit, to business and commerce, and to the community'. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate – DBus (Honoris Causa) – by the University of Ballarat in May 2000.

Jeff is married with 4 children and 8 grandchildren.