

Biography – Stephen Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs



Stephen Smith was sworn in as Minister for Foreign Affairs on 3 December 2007.

Mr Smith was born in Narrogin, Western Australia and spent his early years in Narrogin and Southern Cross. He received his secondary school education at Christian Brothers High School Highgate in Perth.

Mr Smith is a Barrister and Solicitor by profession. He completed his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws at the University of Western Australia. Mr Smith practised as a Barrister and Solicitor in Perth, then completed a Master of Laws at London University, and subsequently lectured and tutored in Law in London.

From 1987 to 1990 he was the State Secretary of the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Labor Party and from 1983 to 1987 he was Principal Private Secretary to the Attorney-General of Western Australia.

During 1991 and 1992, Mr Smith was Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Australia and Senior Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer of Australia, Paul Keating.

Mr Smith has been the Federal Member for Perth since March 1993.

In his first Parliamentary term he was Chair of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Corporations and Securities and a member of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Banking, Finance and Public Administration. During 1996 and 1997, Mr Smith also served as a member of the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

Prior to his appointment as Foreign Minister, Mr Smith held a range of Shadow Ministerial positions including Shadow Minister for Trade, Shadow Minister for Resources and Energy, Shadow Minister for Communications, Shadow Minister for Health, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Shadow Minister for Industry, Infrastructure and Industrial Relations.

From December 2006 until the federal election in November 2007, Mr Smith was the Shadow Minister for Education and Training.

Mr Smith and his wife Jane live in the electorate of Perth and have two teenage children, a son Hugo and a daughter Madeleine.

Mr Smith enjoys watching cricket and hockey.