

## AUSTRALIAN WOMEN FACT FILE

### KERRY ANNE CHIKAROVSKI

(1956 - )

#### Lawyer and Politician

1956	Born Kerry Anne Bartels on 4 April, 1956, at Hunters Hill, NSW
1963	New York - attended UN International School
1969	Returned to Sydney, attended Monte Sant' Angelo school, North Sydney
1974	Completed the HSC, joined Chatswood West Branch of Liberal Party
1979	Graduated with a BEc, LLB Sydney University
1979-1991	Solicitor and part time lecturer, College of Law
1981	Stood as Liberal Candidate for seat of Cabramatta in State Elections
1991	Elected Liberal Member for the State seat of Lane Cove
1992	Minister for Consumer Affairs and Assistant Minister for Education
1993	Minister for Industrial Relations and Employment and Minister for the Status of Women
1994	Deputy Leader of the Opposition
1996	Shadow Minister for Corrective Services
1997	Shadow Minister for the Environment
1998-2002	Leader of the Opposition in NSW
1999	Shadow Minister for the Arts, Ethnic Affairs and the Status of Women
2002	Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Major Projects
2003	Resigned from State politics

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**Kerry Chikarovski** was the eldest of four girls. She attended a parochial Catholic primary school until the early 1960's when she went to New York where, for six years, her father had a posting with the United Nations. While in New York she attended the UN International School. The family returned to Australia in 1969 to live in Chatswood West, a northern suburb of Sydney. Kerry completed her secondary schooling at Monte Sant' Angelo, North Sydney. She says that she was brought up as a feminist and that her father always encouraged her and her sisters "...to have an opinion and speak it..."

She attended Sydney University from 1975 to 1979, graduating in Economics/Law. After graduating, she worked as a solicitor in a law firm and as a part-time lecturer at the Sydney College of Law.

Expressing an early interest in politics she became, in 1974, with the help of her father, Greg Bartels, a former Secretary of the Liberal Party, the protege of John Howard, a family friend. She joined the Chatswood West Branch of the Liberal Party.

She was elected to the NSW State Parliament in 1991 as Member for Lane Cove. In 1991 she was appointed to the Front Bench as Minister for Consumer Affairs. In 1993, at the

age of 38, she became the first woman to hold the Industrial Relations portfolio. According to one newspaper report “...*there was a perception in Macquarie Street that she had leapt over too many grey suits...*”

From 1999-2002 she was leader of the NSW Opposition. In January 2003 she announced her intention to resign from politics at the up-coming March election. At the time of writing (April 2003) it is not known what her next career move will be.

### **Sources**

*Career Path*, Kerry Chikarovski Sydney Morning Herald, Employment, 23 November 2003

Howlett, Scott *Chika Finally Calls It Quits* North Shore Times, 22 January 2003

Lawson, Valerie *In the Premier League* Sydney Morning Herald, Spectrum, 13 March 1999

Zuel, Bernard *Daddy's Girl* Sydney Morning Herald, Agenda, 14 June 1993

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