

THE DIRECTORS *of* THE MRC & THE LIBERAL PARTY FEDERAL WOMENS COMMITTEE

invite you to the Canberra launch by Senator the Hon Helen Coonan of

SO MANY FIRSTS

LIBERAL WOMEN FROM ENID LYONS TO THE TURNBULL ERA

by Margaret Fitzherbert

TIME 7.00 pm

DATE Wednesday 18 November 2009

VENUE Gowrie Room at The Canberra Services Club,
Manuka Circle, Manuka.

RSVP (acceptance only) essential by 23 November 2009

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Commissioned by the Menzies Research Centre, *So Many Firsts* tells the story of the Liberal Party's women in the federal parliament, especially its seven female Cabinet ministers. It establishes the long list of 'firsts' they achieved as women, for women, and for the wider community. The diversity in the backgrounds of the Liberal women who became ministers is striking they were: housewives, lawyers, accountants, small business owners, academics, doctors, farmers, real estate agents, journalists, nurses, tourism operators, public servants, company directors; married women with large families and single women with none. They came from the city and country and from every State in Australia. They were those from political families and others who were the first in their families to enter public life. *So Many Firsts* is also a story about contemporary politics and government in Australia. It examines the past and how it informs the Liberal Party's present, and provides an in side account of various Liberal Governments in the words of the women who were there. *So Many Firsts* is also a book about policies and the debates that surrounded them like child endowment, divorce law reform childcare, family assistance and women's health and the particularly difficult debate over affirmative action legislation.


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COPIES OF THE BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE LAUNCH

Books can also be purchased through www.mrcld.org.au/publications/index.html