



YWCA CANBERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

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**YWCA CANBERRA PRESENTS JULIA GILLARD
IN CONVERSATION**

29 September 2014: YWCA Canberra is proud to announce it will be hosting the Canberra launch of Julia Gillard's biography, *My Story*.

Ms Gillard's three years as Australia's first female Prime Minister will be remembered as one of the most volatile and dramatic periods in Australia's recent political history.

Her frank and personal memoir tells her story: what it was like to govern with a hung Parliament, face unrelenting hostility from the media, while staying true to her core values of creating an equitable and world-class education system, and ensuring a dignified future for Australians with disabilities.

YWCA Canberra Executive Director, Frances Crimmins, said she was honoured to be involved in the event.

"YWCA Canberra has fostered women's leadership in the Canberra community since 1929, and so it's a natural fit for us to be hosting this exciting event.

"As our first female Prime Minister, Julia Gillard forged a path that many women, until that time, had thought was unobtainable. Despite the obstacles and hostility she faced, she remained true to her values and showed incredible resilience and grace under pressure.

"We think her experience is immensely important to share with local women and girls, so that they too recognise that the most high profile leadership roles are not beyond them."

Hosted by YWCA Canberra, the book launch at the National Portrait Gallery will be an intimate event with Julia Gillard in conversation with Julie McKay, YWCA Canberra Board Director and Executive Director of UN Women Australia.

Event details

Monday 10 November 2014

National Portrait Gallery, Gordon Darling Hall & Terrace Rooms

King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT

6.30pm – 9pm

Tickets are now on sale and are strictly limited. Bookings can be made through YWCA Canberra's website at www.ywca-canberra.org.au

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About the book

"I was Prime Minister for three years and three days. Three years and three days of resilience. Three years and three days of changing the nation. Three years and three days for you to judge." – Julia Gillard

On Wednesday 23 June 2010, with the government in turmoil, Julia Gillard asked then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd for a leadership ballot.

The next day, Julia Gillard became Australia's 27th Prime Minister, and our first female leader. Australia was alive to the historic possibilities. Here was a new approach for a new time.

It was to last three extraordinary years.

This is Julia Gillard's chronicle of that turbulent time - a strikingly candid self-portrait of a political leader seeking to realise her ideals. It is her story of what it was like - in the face of government in-fighting and often hostile media - to manage a hung parliament, build a diverse and robust economy, create an equitable and world-class education system, ensure a dignified future for Australians with disabilities, all while attending to our international obligations and building strategic alliances for our future. This is a politician driven by a sense of purpose - from campus days with the Australian Union of Students, to a career in the law, to her often gritty, occasionally glittering rise up the ranks of the Australian Labor Party.

Refreshingly honest, peppered with a wry humour and personal insights, Julia Gillard does not shy away from her mistakes, admitting freely to errors, misjudgements, and policy failures as well as detailing her political successes. Here is an account of what was hidden behind the resilience and dignified courage Gillard showed as prime minister - her view of the vicious hate campaigns directed against her, and a reflection on what it means - and what it takes - to be a woman leader in contemporary politics.

Here, in her own words, Julia Gillard reveals what life was really like as Australia's first female prime minister.

About the author

Julia Gillard was sworn in as the 27th Prime Minister of Australia on 24 June 2010 and served in that office until June 2013. Previously, following the Australian Labor Party's victory at the 2007 Federal Election, Ms Gillard served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Social Inclusion. Ms Gillard was born in Barry, Wales in 1961. She is the daughter of a nurse and aged care

worker. Her family migrated to Australia in 1966 and she grew up in Adelaide.

Ms Gillard developed Australia's guiding policy paper, *Australia in the Asian Century*. Ms Gillard delivered nation-changing policies including reforming Australia education at every level from early childhood to university education, creating an emissions trading scheme, improving the provision and sustainability of health care, aged care and dental care, commencing the nation's first ever national scheme to care for people with disabilities and restructuring the telecommunications sector as well as building a national broadband network.

In foreign policy, Ms Gillard strengthened Australia's alliance with the United States, secured stronger architecture for the relationship with China, upgraded Australia's ties with India, and deepened ties with Japan, Indonesia and South Korea. Ms Gillard has represented Australia at the G20, including winning Australia's right to host the 2014 meeting, the East Asia Summit, APEC, NATO-ISAF and chaired CHOGM. Under Ms Gillard's leadership, Australia was elected to the United Nations Security Council.

In October 2012, Ms Gillard received worldwide attention for her speech in Parliament on the treatment of women in professional and public life.

After departing politics, Ms Gillard has accepted roles as honorary Professor of Politics at University of Adelaide and Nonresident Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, at Brookings Institution.

In March 2014 Ms Gillard was appointed as chair of a global education program that aims to get the world's poorest children into school. The Global Partnership for Education is an international initiative made up of nearly 60 developing countries, donor governments, international organisations, the private sector and civil society groups.

YWCA Canberra Executive Director Frances Crimmins and Julie McKay are available for interview. Ms Gillard will not be available for media interviews.

A limited number of media passes are available (standing room only), and any recording of the event will not be permitted – audio or visual.

Media contact: Joanna Allebone 0450 962 842

About YWCA Canberra: YWCA Canberra is a feminist, not-for-profit community organisation that has been providing community services and representing women's issues in the Canberra community since its establishment in 1929. YWCA Canberra employs more than 350 staff across the ACT, and delivers 30 quality programs in children's services, community development, housing, youth services, women's leadership, advocacy, and training. Represented in 122 countries, the YWCA has a global reach of 25 million women and girls. As part of this international movement, YWCA Canberra works for a world where reconciliation, justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment are promoted and sustained through women's leadership. For more information visit:

www.ywca-canberra.org.au