

CIA/CR 177-12922 M

(John) Malcolm FRASER

AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister  
(since December 1975)

Addressed as:  
Mr. Prime Minister



Leader of the Liberal Party (LP) since March 1975, Malcolm Fraser became Prime Minister in the coalition government formed after the electoral victory of the LP and the National Country Party in December 1975. As leader of the opposition, he had

been named caretaker Prime Minister in November, when Australia's Governor General sacked Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam after a parliamentary impasse over the budget. Long active in the LP, Fraser has held several Cabinet posts in previous conservative governments, most recently (August 1971-December 1972) that of Minister for Education and Science. He has also served (November 1969-March 1971) as Minister for Defense, and he has retained a keen interest in defense and foreign policy matters.

Fraser was born in Melbourne, the grandson of a man who came to Australia from Nova Scotia during the 19th-century gold rush and eventually became a member of the first Commonwealth Parliament. He holds a master's degree with honors in philosophy, political science and economics from Magdalen College, Oxford. First elected to the House of Representatives in 1955, he has been reelected ever since.

A Leader Grantee in 1964, Fraser visited Washington most recently in July 1976. He is a wealthy man, owning a house in Canberra and an 8,000-acre estate in Victoria, where he raises cattle and sheep. His leisure interests include fishing, photography, and motorcycling. Fraser, 47, is married and has four children.

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