

## Kim Beazley



Kim Beazley Junior has had a distinguished career as a politician and an academic. During his 27 year political career he served as deputy prime minister, defence minister, education minister and leader of the Opposition. He was Leader of the Australian Labor Party from 1996 to 2001 then from 2005 to 2006. He was a Minister in the government of Bob Hawke from 1983 to 1991 and was Deputy Prime Minister to Paul Keating between 1991 and 1996.

Since retiring from politics in 2006, Mr Beazley took up a post as professor of political science and international relations at the University of Western Australia and in July 2008 he was appointed Chancellor-designate at the Australian National University, taking up the position in January 2009.

At the January 2009 Australia Day Awards, Mr Beazley was also appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia, the nation's highest honour, for his service to the parliament of Australia. The judges of the honour cited Mr Beazley's time as defence minister, adopting a position of greater self-reliance with significant ramifications in areas such as military equipment and his role as an advocate for indigenous people.

Life after politics has allowed Mr Beazley to devote much time to his passion for international relations, particularly Australia's relationship with the US. Despite his stimulating career post-politics, Mr Beazley said nothing compared to the thrill and power of political life.

Kim was born in Perth in 1948. His father was a Federal Parliamentarian for more than 30 years representing the electorate of Fremantle, and was Minister for Education in the Whitlam Government. Kim was educated at Claremont Primary School, Hollywood Senior High School (Perth), the University of Western Australia, and Oxford University. He has Masters degrees in Arts and Philosophy, and is a former lecturer in social and political theory at Murdoch University, Western Australia. He has served in the Federal Parliament since 1980, when he won the Perth metropolitan seat of Swan, moving to the seat of Brand in 1996. His ministerial career began in 1983 in the first Hawke Government, when he became Minister for Aviation and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence. He was the youngest member of the ministry at the time of his appointments. On the 13 December 1984, Kim Beazley became the youngest ever-Australian Defence Minister, and the 6th Western Australian to hold the position. Kim is married to Susie Annus, and has three daughters - Jessica, Hannah and Rachel.