

Biography of Hon Judith Collins

Judith Collins is the Minister of Justice and Minister for ACC and Minister for Ethnic Affairs in the New Zealand National-led Government. She is ranked fifth in the Cabinet and is the highest ranked woman.

Ms Collins was elected to Parliament representing the Auckland seat of Clevedon in 2002. Following electorate boundary changes she was elected MP for Papakura in the 2008 and 2011 elections.

As former Minister of Police and Corrections, Ms Collins energetically championed policies aimed at improving community safety, boosting resourcing for law and order and providing support for the victims of crime. She introduced and passed legislation to bring private management back into the prison system.

As former Minister of Veterans' Affairs, Ms Collins promoted new initiatives to modernise support services for veterans and to ensure fairness in the provision of pensions and entitlements.

The daughter of a World War II serviceman, Ms Collins campaigned successfully to force an inquiry into the effect of Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans. She was the proud recipient of both the Ex-Vietnam Services Association Pin and Badge for her work.

Prior to being elected to Parliament, Ms Collins was a lawyer and company director. She was Chair of the Casino Control Authority and has served as President of the Auckland District Law Society and Vice-President of the New Zealand Law Society. She is a member of the Fulbright New Zealand Alumni Association.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws (Honours) and a Master of Taxation Studies from the University of Auckland.

Ms Collins is married and lives with her family in Auckland.