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Official Biography – BILL SHORTEN



Bill Shorten is the Federal Member for Maribyrnong and Leader of the Opposition.

Bill joined the Labor Party during his last year of secondary schooling aged 17 and has since devoted his entire adult life to serving the labour movement.

Bill's love and faith in the Labor Party are rooted in his family's story.

Bill and his twin brother Robert grew up in Hughesdale, in the south eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Bill's parents worked hard to give him and his brother the best start in life. Bill attended the Jesuit School Xavier College, completed a Bachelors degree in Arts and Law from Monash University, as well as an MBA from the Melbourne Business School.

Bill has since worked as a union organiser, union secretary, as a member of the ACTU executive, a director of AustralianSuper, Australia's largest superannuation fund and a director of the Victorian Funds Management Corporation.

He was first elected as the Member for Maribyrnong at the 2007 Federal Election.

Before his promotion to the Ministry, Bill was the Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Children's Services and Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction where Bill started a disability movement to ensure that people with disability and their carers aren't treated like second class citizens in their own country.

Bill was first and sworn into the Labor Ministry in September 2010 and promoted to Cabinet in December 2011.

As a senior member of the Labor Government, Bill played a key role in securing a number of historic Labor reforms including establishing the National Disability Insurance Scheme and increasing universal superannuation to 12 per cent ensuring that Australians don't work hard their whole lives only to retire poor.

As Minister for Workplace Relations, Bill continued the Labor Government's ongoing commitment to a fair and productive workplace relations system and during his time as Minister for Education helped secure Labor's Better Schools reforms to deliver more individual attention and more resources for students in every school.

Bill is married to Chloe, a former resources industry manager. Together, they have supported disability reform, science and medical research, and maternal and child health organisations.

Bill and Chloe live in his electorate of Maribyrnong with their three children and dogs Theodore and Matilda.

Bill has an enduring interest in social justice issues such as domestic violence, equal opportunity at work, and as a father of three and a stepdad the increasing diversity of families in Australia.