

John Howard

Prime Minister of Australia

John Howard was born on July 26, 1939, in Earlwood, Australia. He obtained a bachelor of laws degree from Sydney University.

Prior to his election to Parliament, Mr. Howard was a partner in a Sydney firm of solicitors.

Mr. Howard entered national politics in 1974 after winning a seat in Australia's Parliament as a member of the Liberal Party. In 1975, he was appointed Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs. He subsequently served as Minister for Special Trade Negotiations and as Treasurer for over five years.

In 1982, John Howard was elected Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party. In 1985, he became Leader of the parliamentary Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition. He held the latter position until 1989 and resumed it in 1995-96. Between his two incumbencies as Opposition Leader, he served as shadow minister for the Liberal/National coalition in a number of senior portfolios.

John Howard was elected Prime Minister in March 1996 and won re-election in 1998 and 2001.

Mr. Howard and his wife, Janette, have three children.