

# THE GLASS CLIFF ELECTION

Female candidates running in  
unwinnable seats in the  
2022 federal election



Australian  
National  
University

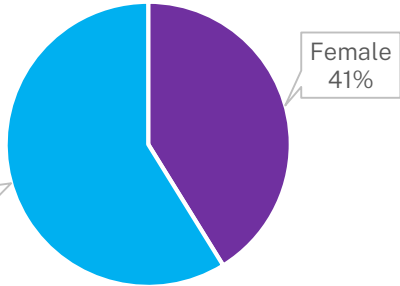
**THE GLOBAL  
INSTITUTE  
FOR WOMEN'S  
LEADERSHIP**

# MPs in previous Parliament

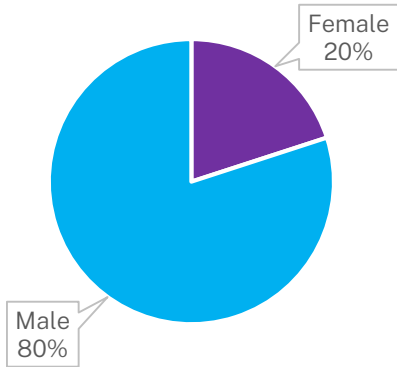
In the previous House of Representatives, the major parties had varying proportions of female MPs.

All major parties were (and still are) led by men.

Previous ALP MPs



Previous Coalition MPs

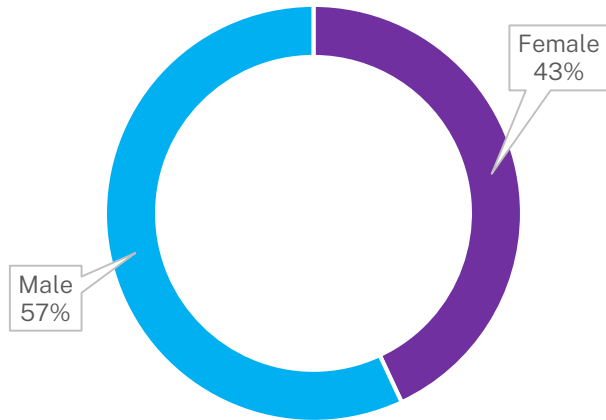


# 2022 Candidates

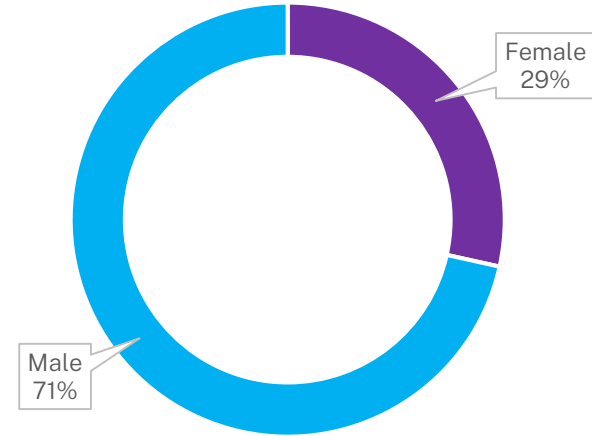
Both the Coalition and Labor put forward candidates in all 151 electorates for the House of Representatives

- 43% of ALP candidates and 29% of Coalition candidates\* were female.

## Labor Candidates



## Coalition Candidates



\*Coalition candidates are defined here using the LNP candidate, or the sitting or more competitive candidate from the Liberal or National parties in states where the parties are separate entities.



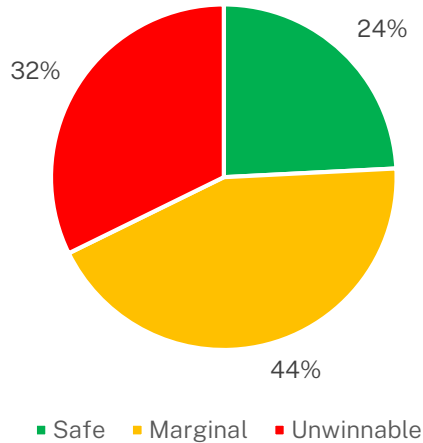
# But the raw numbers don't tell the full story

Not only were there fewer women contesting  
than men – they were also less likely to win

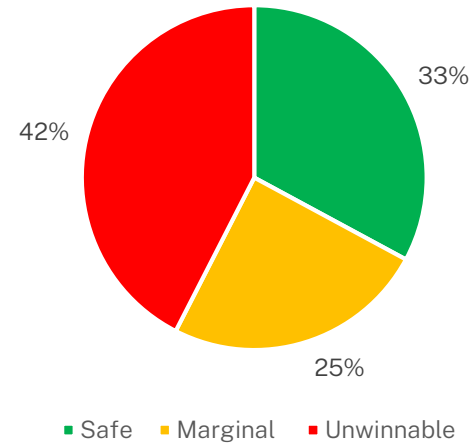


# Who got to run in safe ALP seats?

Where did the female ALP candidates stand?



Where did the male ALP candidates stand?

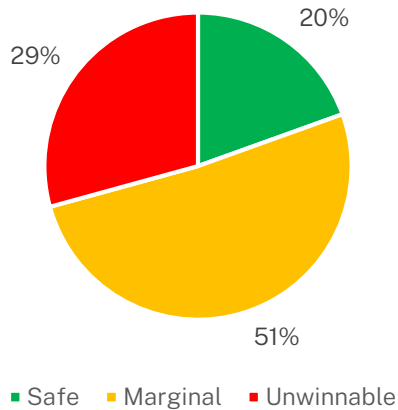


In the ALP, around 24% of female candidates ran in safe seats, compared to 33% of male candidates. **76% of female candidates in the ALP were 'Glass Cliff Candidates'** and ran in seats they were unlikely to win, or that were precarious to hold. The equivalent proportion of men who ran in these seats was 67%.

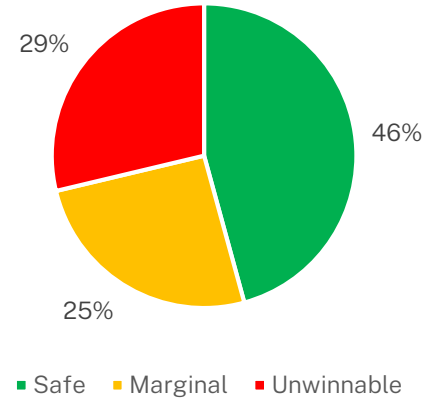


# Who gets to run in safe Coalition seats?

Where did the female Coalition candidates stand?



Where did the male Coalition candidates stand?

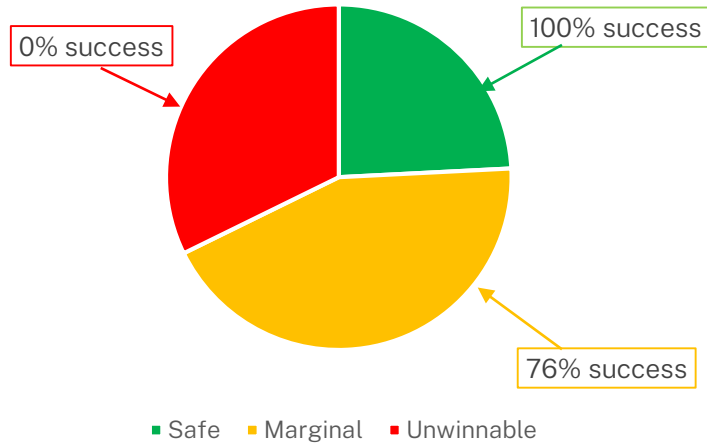


In the Coalition, around 20% of female candidates ran in safe seats, compared to 46% of male candidates. **80% of female candidates in the Coalition were 'Glass Cliff Candidates'** and ran in seats they were unlikely to win, or that were precarious to hold. The equivalent proportion of men who ran in these seats was 54%.

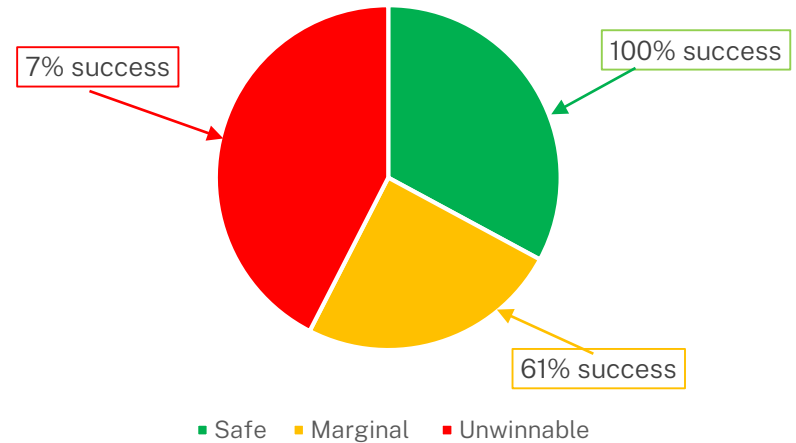


# How did they fare?

How successful were female ALP candidates?

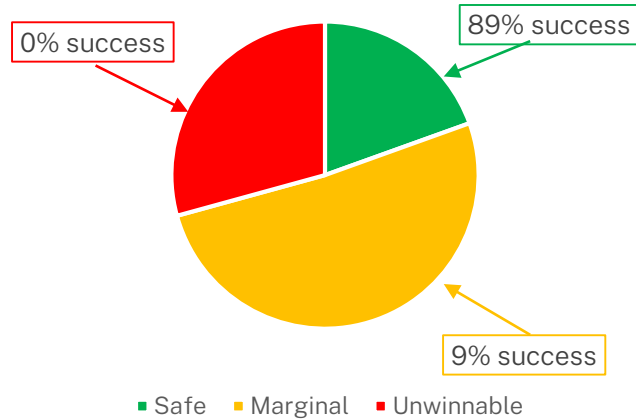


How successful were male ALP candidates?

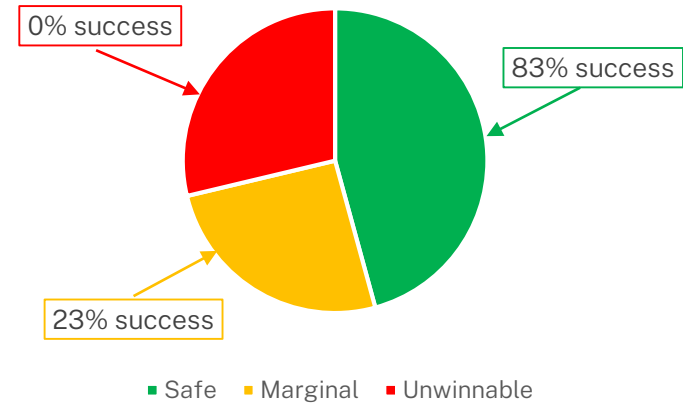


# How did they fare?

How successful were female Coalition candidates?



How successful were male Coalition candidates?





# Compare the pair



Overall, female Labor candidates had a 55% success rate, even higher than men (47%)



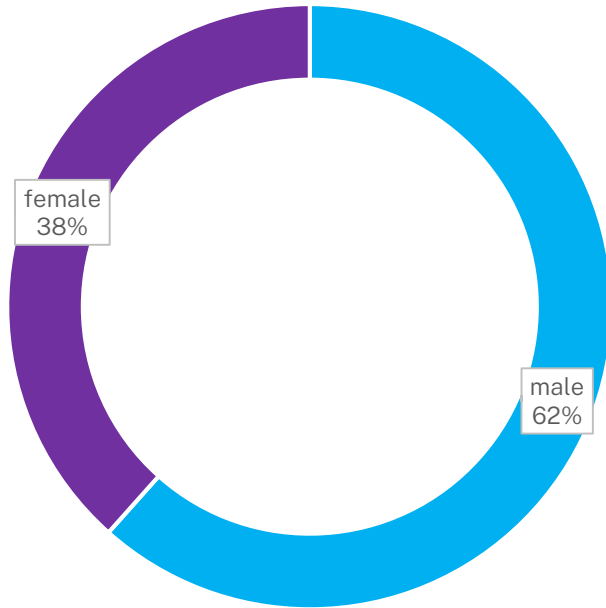
Overall, female Coalition candidates had a 23% success rate, much lower than men (43%)

While all major political parties need to do better to improve the diversity of our political representatives, the lower disparity between opportunities provided to male and female candidates in the ALP reflects the longstanding policy of quotas within the party, with greater numbers of women overall and greater numbers in winnable seats.

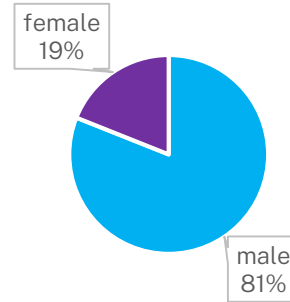


# Make up of the new House of Representatives

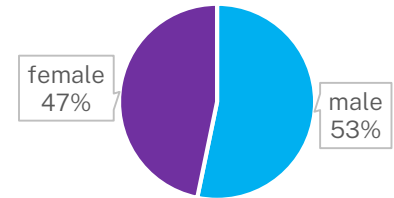
All House of Representatives MPs



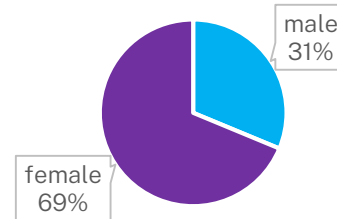
Coalition



ALP



Others



We know quotas work to get more women into politics – but this analysis shows us why it's not just about how many women are preselected as candidates, but how many are put into positions where they genuinely can win.



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