Verity Firth MP | State Member for Balmain

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Balmain MP appointed Minister for Education and Training

Member for Balmain Verity Firth has been appointed Minister for Education and Training, her third Ministerial promotion in 18 months.

Ms Firth was elected to Parliament in March 2007 and immediately appointed Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Environment.

Ms Firth was later elevated to Minister for Climate Change and the Environment.

“I am excited to serve in the new-look Rees Government, particularly in the critical education portfolio,” Ms Firth said.

“Premier Rees has made education one of his priorities because our Government understands that providing children with the best start in our public schools is an investment in their future and the future of NSW.

“NSW students consistently perform among the best in the nation and internationally, with a recent OECD study ranking NSW 15 year olds among the best in the world in reading, maths and science.

“That is an outstanding record and one on which we can continue to build.

“I look forward to visiting all of the schools in the Balmain electorate in my new role and building on the relationships I have established with our hard working local teachers, principals and other school staff and students.”

Ms Firth has introduced major reforms in each of her portfolio areas:

- As Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, she established the landmark $150m Energy Efficiency Strategy, the first of its kind in Australia. The Strategy will drive down carbon emissions by ensuring straightforward energy saving measures are implemented state-wide in homes, schools and businesses.
- As Minister for Women, an overhaul of Domestic Violence services, to ensure police, health and support services are streamlined and accessible to women and families in need. She also secured an extra $2.9m annual funding for frontline support services.
- As Minister for Science and Medical Research, the historic passage of the Stem Cell Research enabling legislation, and the creation of a research fund to foster work in that field. Ms Firth has also secured numerous funding commitments for medical research infrastructure development, including $30m in new State money in the past three months alone to develop research facilities at Darlinghurst and Wollongong.
- As Assistant Health Minister (Cancer), a radical anti-smoking package that will make NSW one of the toughest jurisdictions in the world for tobacco marketing, including moving all tobacco products out of sight in retail outlets.
“I am keen to develop innovative new strategies to help our teachers continue to deliver the top quality education which NSW schools provide.

“I am particularly keen to continue working with the Rudd Government to address the needs of students in low socio-economic communities.”