

Barton Deakin Brief – Updated Federal Shadow Ministry – Oct 2025

13 October 2025

Summary of Changes

On 13 October 2025, the Leader of the Opposition, Sussan Ley MP, announced a targeted reshuffle of the Coalition's Shadow Ministry, following the resignation of Andrew Hastie from his frontbench role. The changes emphasise security, legal oversight, communications, and mental health, while re-balancing representation across the Liberal and National parties. Most portfolios remain unchanged, and many shadow ministers maintain their existing responsibilities. These changes take effect immediately and signal refocusing on law, order, national security, and internal party renewal.

Key Changes to the Shadow Cabinet

Portfolio / Position	New Appointment	Previous Holder / Notes
Shadow Minister for Home Affairs	Senator Jonathon Duniam	Replaces Andrew Hastie, who resigned from the Coalition frontbench. Moves from Shadow Education.
Shadow Attorney-General	Andrew Wallace MP	Replaces Julian Leeser MP, who moves to a new portfolio. Wallace resigns as Deputy Chair, Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security.
Shadow Minister for Education and Arts	Julian Leeser MP	Moves from Shadow Attorney-General.
Shadow Cabinet Secretary	Zoe McKenzie MP	New appointment while retaining her role as Shadow Assistant Minister for Education and Early Learning.
Shadow Assistant Minister for Communications	Aaron Violi MP	Elevated from backbench; adds this portfolio to his responsibilities.

Portfolio / Position	New Appointment	Previous Holder / Notes
Shadow Assistant Minister for Housing and Mental Health	Cameron Caldwell MP	Newly appointed to the Shadow Ministry.
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security – Deputy Chair	Phillip Thompson OAM MP (nominated)	To replace Andrew Wallace.

The updated shadow ministry list is below:

Federal Coalition Shadow Ministry – October 2025

Title	Name
Leader of the Opposition	The Hon Sussan Ley MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Treasurer	Mr Ted O'Brien MP
Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs	Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, Shadow Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Shadow Minister for Sport	Senator the Hon Anne Ruston
Shadow Minister for the Environment, Shadow Minister for Youth	Ms Angie Bell MP
Shadow Assistant Minister for Stronger Families and Stronger Communities	Senator Leah Blyth
Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Shadow Minister for Productivity and Deregulation	Senator Andrew Bragg
Shadow Minister for Skills and Training	Mr Scott Buchholz MP
Shadow Minister for Water, Shadow Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Shadow Minister for Emergency Management	Senator Ross Cadell
Shadow Assistant Minister for Housing, Shadow Assistant Minister for Mental Health	Mr Cameron Caldwell MP
Shadow Minister for Cyber Security, Shadow Minister for Science	Senator Claire Chandler

Title	Name
Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Mr Darren Chester MP
Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate	Senator the Hon Jonathon Duniam
Manager of Opposition Business in the House, Shadow Minister for Industry and Innovation	Mr Alex Hawke MP
Deputy Leader of the National Party, Deputy Manager of Opposition Business in the House, Shadow Minister for Trade, Investment and Tourism	Mr Kevin Hogan MP
Shadow Assistant Minister for Artificial Intelligence, Shadow Assistant Minister for the Digital Economy, Shadow Assistant Minister for Scrutiny of Government Waste	Mr Simon Kennedy MP
Shadow Assistant Minister to the Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Assistant Minister for Women, Shadow Assistant Minister for Child Protection and the Prevention of Family Violence	Senator Maria Kovacic
Shadow Minister for Education and Early Learning, Shadow Minister for the Arts	Mr Julian Leeser MP
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians, Shadow Minister for Social Services	Senator Kerryne Liddle
Leader of the Nationals, Shadow Minister for Agriculture	Mr David Littleproud MP
Shadow Minister for Resources and Northern Australia	Senator Susan McDonald
Shadow Special Minister of State, Shadow Minister for Urban Infrastructure and Cities, Shadow Minister for Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games	Senator the Hon James McGrath
Shadow Minister for Women, Shadow Minister for Communications	Ms Melissa McIntosh MP
Shadow Cabinet Secretary, Shadow Assistant Minister for Education and Early Learning	Ms Zoe McKenzie MP
Leader of the Nationals in the Senate, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development	Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie
Shadow Assistant Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, Shadow Assistant Minister for Infrastructure	Senator Matt O'Sullivan

Title

Shadow Minister for the Public Service, Shadow Minister for Finance,
Shadow Minister for Government Services
Shadow Minister for Defence Industry, Shadow Minister for Defence
Personnel
Shadow Minister for Immigration, Shadow Minister for Citizenship and
Multicultural Affairs, Deputy Manager of Opposition Business in the
Senate

Shadow Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury

Shadow Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Shadow
Assistant Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction

Shadow Minister for Defence

Shadow Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction

Shadow Assistant Minister for the National Disability Insurance
Scheme, Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence
Shadow Assistant Minister for Communications

Shadow Attorney-General

Shadow Minister for Small Business, Shadow Minister for Industrial
Relations and Employment
Shadow Minister for International Development and Pacific Island
Affairs

Name

Senator James
Paterson
Ms Melissa Price
MP

Senator Paul
Scarr

Mr Dave Sharma
MP
Senator Dean
Smith
Mr Angus Taylor
MP
The Hon Dan
Tehan MP
Mr Phillip
Thompson MP
Mr Aaron Violi MP
Mr Andrew
Wallace MP

Mr Tim Wilson MP

Mr Jason Wood
MP

Further Information

For more information, please contact [Matthew Harris](#) on 0410 839 586.

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