

Media Release



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As Australia assesses the vote for its first female prime minister, *Intelligence Squared* tackles its most controversial debate yet: Has feminism failed?

After generations of effort, women still bear a disproportionate burden of domestic labour. Women are under-represented in the senior ranks of politics, business and the professions. In the end, Julia Gillard's prime ministership may be the shortest in our history. What role did her gender play at the ballot box?

Statistics show women continue to be denied equal pay for equal work and young women are less likely to identify as feminists than their mothers. What does this say about feminism? Has it failed to mobilise and inspire? Or should feminists be celebrating a deeper victory in which a new generation of young men and women take equality for granted?

Wednesday 22 September 2010, 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Intelligence Squared, Feminism Has Failed

Melbourne Town Hall, corner of Swanston and Collins Streets, Melbourne

\$20/\$12 concession, bookings through wheelercentre.com

For: Gay Alcorn, Stephen Mayne (third speaker TBA)

Against: Monica Dux, Wendy McCarthy (third speaker TBA)

About *Intelligence Squared*

Intelligence Squared is a provocative and informative series of live debates on hot-button issues, offering a sometimes fiery, often controversial and always entertaining forum for healthy argument. The format is the traditional Oxford-style debate, with one side proposing and the other opposing a sharply framed motion. Three speakers argue on each side of the motion. After the formal arguments, the debate is thrown open to the floor for moderated questions. The live audience votes both before and after hearing the arguments, so each debate has a clear measure of how far people have actually been swayed. *Intelligence Squared* in Melbourne is a project of the St James Ethics Centre and the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas.

More about the speakers

Monica Dux is a Melbourne writer. She has published widely on women's issues and co-authored the book *The Great Feminist Denial*.

Gay Alcorn is a Walkley award-winning journalist who joined *The Age* in 1989. She was Washington correspondent from 1999-2002 and was appointed editor of *The Sunday Age* in 2008.

Wendy McCarthy was a founding member and co-convenor of the Women's Electoral Lobby in 1972. She has been an educator, advocate and commentator in Australian public life and a company director for the past forty years.

Stephen Mayne is a Walkley award-winning journalist, shareholder activist and founder of Crikey and the Mayne Report. He has also run as an independent in State and Federal elections.

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The Wheeler Centre

A Victorian Government initiative and the centrepiece of Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.