Anthony John ABBOTT
Prime Minister 18 September 2013 -

- Anthony (Tony) Abbott became the 28th prime minister following the 2013 Federal election victory for the Liberal National Coalition. He replaced the Australian Labor Party’s Kevin Rudd.
- Member of the House of Representatives for Warringah NSW since 1994.

Main achievements (1996 to 2013)
- As Minister for Health introduced the Medicare Safety Net and the capping of annual out-of-pocket medical expenses for Medicare cardholders.
- As Minister for Employment Services he presided over the development of the Job Network and a major expansion of Work for the Dole program.
- As Leader of the Opposition led a stable and effective shadow ministry, almost defeating a first-term government at the 2010 federal election.

Key election commitments
In the 2013 Federal Coalition Campaign Launch, the Coalition committed to:
- achieving recognition of Indigenous Australians in the constitution
- introducing legislation to abolish the carbon tax and the mining tax
- implementing a revised National Broadband Network (NBN) business plan
- introducing legislation to enable Australian victims of overseas terrorism access to victims of crime compensation
- introducing Operation Sovereign Borders to combat people smuggling
- implementing a paid parental scheme
- increasing the focus and spending on key infrastructure projects
Personal life

- Born 4 November 1957 in London, United Kingdom.
- A Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.
- Worked as a journalist for The Bulletin and The Australian.
- Press Secretary to Liberal Leader John Hewson 1990-93.
- Executive Director, Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy 1993-94.

Character

Mr Abbott rarely minces his words; he is candid, provocative, and a proper conservative who does not adjust his views to account for what he judges to be the fancy of his audience...

Annabel Crabb, All aboard the ‘People Skills’ wild ride, ABC Online, 1 Dec 2009

Tony Abbott deserves hero status amongst Liberals. His high intelligence and superb discipline in the campaign confounded his many patronising critics. No other person leading the party could have achieved what he did.


For all his reputation as a man of zeal, Abbott is very much a pragmatist. There are those moments when pragmatism meets conviction, and Abbott will pounce on them much like any politician, but he very rarely indulges in moral idealism.

Waleed Aly, Inside Tony Abbott’s mind: this is serious, The Monthly, No 91, July 2013

Did you know?

- Abbott was an amateur boxer during his time at Oxford.
- Abbott is a volunteer member of the NSW Rural Fire Service.
- He has spent time each year since 2008 volunteering on community projects in remote Indigenous communities.

Sources

Tony Abbott MHR, Leader of the Opposition, Federal Member for Warringah


Tony Abbott – Address to the 2013 Federal Coalition Campaign Launch – Speech


Further reading
