The Hon. Karen Andrews MP

Assistant Minister for Vocational Education & Skills, Australian Government

Karen Andrews is the Australian Government's Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills and Federal Member for McPherson in Queensland, representing the Liberal National Party since the 2010 federal election.

Following the 2013 election, she took on a leadership position as Chair of the House of Representatives Joint Standing Committee on Public Works .

Mrs Andrews was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry and Science in December 2014, and then Assistant Minister for Science from September 2015 - July 2016 in the Turnbull Ministry. Following the 2016 election, she was appointed Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills. In that position, her focus is on raising the status of VET as a valued pathway for Australians to a job and career.

Prior to entering Parliament, Karen Andrews studied a BEng(Mech) (Queensland University of Technology), and worked at various power stations in Queensland, and later chemical and petrochemical sites interstate, where she specialised in design and plant maintenance. After further study, she attained a GradDip in Industrial Relations (Victoria University) and a Certificate in Mediation (Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia), and ran her own business as an industrial relations advocate in the engineering and construction industries.

Mrs Andrews co-founded and co-Chairs Parliamentary Friends of Science, which seeks to promote closer engagement between the scientific community and political representatives.

Mrs Andrews is a long term resident of the southern Gold Coast and brings her experience in engineering, industrial relations and running her own business to her position as the Member for McPherson.

She is a strong supporter of the not-for-profit sector and its contribution to local communities and is patron of a number of organisations.

Karen Andrews is married with three children attending school and University.