

Another new Minister for International Development and the Pacific

by Ashlee Betteridge
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In September, [we wrote](#) about the elevation of Steven Ciobo to the new position of Minister for International Development and the Pacific.

His time in the role was short-lived. On the weekend in a ministry reshuffle, Ciobo was promoted to the trade portfolio, and [Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells](#) became the new Minister of International Development and the Pacific.

Most recently the Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs, [the NSW Senator](#) has previously served as the Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing and Parliamentary Secretary for Social Services.

A search of Hansard has not revealed much about her stance on foreign aid or the Pacific, but in her multicultural affairs role, she has [expressed support](#) for the humanitarian resettlement of Syrian refugees. She also recently spoke on the [need to combat human trafficking](#). You can see how she has voted on a number of issues [here](#). Prior to her appointment, Fierravanti-Wells was not a member of either the Senate or Joint foreign affairs committees.

Under the current government, this role, and the parliamentary secretary role that preceded it, has had quick turnover. Senator Brett Mason was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs from the Coalition's election victory in September 2013 until December 2014 (14 months). Steven Ciobo was then [appointed](#) as his replacement. In September 2015 the role was [upgraded](#) to its current ministerial-level position (Ciobo's total time in both positions was also 14 months).

Author/s:

Ashlee Betteridge

Ashlee Betteridge was the Manager of the Development Policy Centre until April 2021. She was previously a Research Officer at the centre from 2013-2017. A former journalist, she holds a Master of Public Policy (Development Policy) from ANU and has development experience in Indonesia and Timor-Leste. She now has her own consultancy, Better Things Consulting, and works across several large projects with managing contractors.

Link:

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