



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

<b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>	<b>Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)</b>
<b>ACCESSION NO</b>	<b>106/11 (formerly M445)</b>
<b>CATEGORY</b>	Community and Political, individuals
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Prime Ministers, Politicians, Farmers
<b>DATE RANGE</b>	1973–1975
<b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>	0.53 metres (3 boxes)
<b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>	<p>John Malcolm Fraser was born in Toorak, Melbourne on 21 May 1930.</p> <p>His grandfather, Sir Simon Fraser (1832–1919), had emigrated from Canada in 1853, initially to work as a prospector, but later moving into business, farming and politics. He was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly in 1874 and later served as a delegate to the Australasian Federal Convention (1897–1898) and a senator representing the Free Trade Party (1901–1913).</p> <p>Malcolm’s father, John Neville Fraser (1890–1962), studied law at the University of Oxford, but on his return to Australia concerned himself largely with his work as a pastoralist. In 1926, he married Una Woolf. Neville and Una had two children: Lorraine (1926– ) and (John) Malcolm (1930– ).</p> <p>The Fraser family lived at Balpool-Nyang near Moulamein in New South Wales before moving to ‘Nareen’, a station in western Victoria, in 1943. During this period Malcolm attended Tudor House School in New South Wales (1940–1943) and Melbourne Grammar (1944–1948). In 1949, he was admitted to the University of Oxford to study ‘Modern Greats’ (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).</p> <p>After graduating, Malcolm Fraser returned to Victoria and decided to embark on a political career. He succeeded in being elected as Liberal member for the seat of Wannon in western Victoria at his second attempt in 1955. A backbencher under Menzies for ten years, Fraser gained his first cabinet post as Minister for the Army under Prime Minister Harold Holt in 1966. He went on to become Minister for Education and Science (1968–1969 and 1971–1972) and Minister for Defence (1969–1971). Following the Labor government’s election win in 1972, he served as Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations. He became leader of the Liberal</p>

	<p>Party in March 1975 and in November became caretaker Prime Minister after the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, dismissed the Whitlam government. He was returned to office through election victories in 1975, 1977 and 1980, before losing to Bob Hawke at the 1983 election. He resigned from politics in March 1983.</p> <p>Following his formal political career, Malcolm Fraser has continued a presence on the world stage, as Chair of the United Nations Panel of Eminent Persons on the Role of Transnational Corporations in South Africa (1985); as Co-Chair of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons campaigning for an end to apartheid in South Africa (1985–1986); and Chair of the UN Secretary-General’s Expert Group on African Commodity Issues (1989–1990). In 1987 he founded CARE Australia, the country’s largest non-political and non-religious overseas aid organisation and was president of CARE International from 1990 to 1995. In 1997, he led a Commonwealth Observer Mission to Pakistan to monitor the national elections.</p> <p>Malcolm Fraser remains actively interested in issues associated with human rights, multiculturalism and reconciliation with indigenous Australians. He has been highly critical of the Howard government’s involvement in the war in Iraq, as well as of its treatment of asylum seekers.</p>
<b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>	February 2006
<b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>	Open
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>This series consists of folders of representations, received by J M (Malcolm) Fraser as Leader of the Opposition, relating to the Whitlam Labor Government’s proposed legislation to establish an Australian Government Insurance Office (AGIO) and amend the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme.</p> <p>Most of the folders (items [1]–[15]) relate to the Australian Government Insurance Office Bill 1975. This was introduced into the House of Representatives on 23 April 1975 and given its second reading on 15 May. It passed to the Senate on 3 June and was further debated on 20–21 August, after which the bill finally lapsed. It had prompted considerable protest from members of the public, Liberal Party branches, some businesses and those working within the insurance industry, who saw it as an attempt to nationalise the industry, thereby creating a government monopoly in competition with hundreds of existing insurance companies. The several thousands of representations in this series, and the timing of them (most are dated late April to late May), suggest that the legislation was the first major issue from which Fraser gained significant public support as Leader of the Opposition. Some letters also complain more generally about the Whitlam Government and offer Fraser best wishes</p>

	<p>for success. The letters were generally batched for a standard response and scored through when action had been completed.</p> <p>Two other folders in the series (items [16]–[17]) concern proposed amendments to the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (Superannuation Bill 1975). These originated in recommendations by the Hancock Committee and were less controversial than the AGIO Bill. Representations in this series include many from professional and business organisations supporting the amendments.</p>
<b>NOTE ON COLLECTIONS</b>	This series was transferred from National Archives of Australia in February 2006.
<b>NOTE ON LISTING</b>	Single number system imposed by National Archives of Australia; chronological
<b>LISTED BY</b>	Initial listing by NAA; revised and re-formatted by Caitlin Stone
<b>DATE</b>	23 January 2007

<b>Box No</b>	<b>Series No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
		<b>Representations relating to the proposed Australian Government Insurance Office and amendments to the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme</b>	<b>1973–1975</b>
<b>1</b>	1	Insurance and Whitlam [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office, includes protest leaflet]	27 Apr 1975–27 May 1975
	2	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	29 Apr 1975–1 Jul 1975
	3 PART 1	Insurance completed [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	28 Apr 1975–12 May 1975
	3 PART 2	Insurance completed [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	5 May 1975–30 Jun 1975
	4	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	28 Apr 1975–9 May 1975
	5	AGIO letters - no address [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	28 Apr 1975–11 Jul 1975
<b>2</b>	6	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	30 Apr 1975–20 Jun 1 1975
	7	Congratulations and AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	28 Apr 1975–26 May 1975
	8	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	12 Nov 1973–16 Jul 1975
	9 PART 1	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	21 Apr 1975–12 May 1975
	9 PART 2	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	29 Apr 1975–9 Jun 1975
	10	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	29 Apr 1975–14 May 1975
<b>3</b>	11	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	4 May 1975–23 May 1975
	12	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	28 Apr 1975–3 May 1975
	13	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office, includes leaflet 'What Liberalism really means']	2 May 1975–20 Jun 1975
	14	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	27 Apr 1975–27 May 1975

<b>Box No</b>	<b>Series No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
	15	AGIO [representations relating to proposed Australian Government Insurance Office]	26 May 1975–16 Jul 1975
	16	Superannuation [representations relating to proposed amendments to Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme, includes petitions, address by L K Burgess, submissions from Council of Australian Government Employee Organisations and Commonwealth Bank Officers' Association]	1 May 1975–27 Jun 1975
	17	Superannuation [representations relating to proposed amendments to Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme]	4 Apr 1975–16 Jul 1975
END			