

# Former Member of the Parliament of South Australia

## Mr Frank Walsh



### PERSONAL DETAILS

**Full Name** Francis Henry Walsh

**Date of Birth** 06 Jul 1897

**Deceased** 18 May 1968

**Public Activities** Born in 1897 at O'Halloran Hill, Frank Walsh trained and practised as a stonemason as a young man. He became involved in the union movement and in 1941 was elected to the House of Assembly as the Labor member for Goodwood. Walsh remained in Parliament through out the extended rule of the Playford administration, taking over as leader of the Labor Opposition from M.R. O'Halloran in 1960. Under his leadership the Labor Party won the March 1965 election and formed the first Labor Government since 1933. The new Government was seen by many South Australians as a breath of fresh air after such a long period of conservative rule. Important legislation passed during Walsh's Premiership included the Social Welfare Act and the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act. The Walsh Government also increased spending in areas such as education. The government's program, however, was regularly frustrated by a conservative Upper House. Much of the reformist energy of this period was seen as coming from Don Dunstan who held the important ministerial portfolios of Attorney-General, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister of Social Welfare. Indeed, many within the Party felt that Dunstan would make a better leader in the run up to the 1968 election than the ageing Walsh. Widespread dissatisfaction with Walsh's leadership and fears that his political skills were insufficient to match those of the newly elected (and much younger) Liberal Opposition leader Steele Hall, saw Walsh reluctantly resign in mid-1967. Dunstan was elected leader of the Labor Party and Premier and despite a good campaign narrowly lost the 1968 election to the Liberal Party. Walsh died the same year.

### ELECTORAL HISTORY

Date	House	District	Party	Reason
29 Mar 1941 - 02 Mar 1956	House of Assembly	Goodwood	Australian Labor Party	Boundary Redistribution
03 Mar 1956 - 01 Mar 1968	House of Assembly	Edwardstown	Australian Labor Party	Not Re-elected
01 Mar 1968 -		Not Re-elected	Unknown	
01 Mar 1968 -		Not Re-elected	Unknown	

### PARLIAMENTARY APPOINTMENTS

#### Offices Held

01 Mar 1968 Former Member

#### Ministerial Appointments

10 Mar 1965 - 01 Jun 1967 Minister of Immigration

10 Mar 1965 - 01 Jun 1967 Premier

10 Mar 1965 - 01 Jun 1967 Treasurer

18 Mar 1965 - 01 Jun 1967 Minister of Housing

01 Jun 1967 - 26 Mar 1968 Minister of Social Welfare