Andrew Leigh MP is the Federal Member for Fraser

Prior to being elected in 2010 as the federal member for Fraser, Andrew was a professor of economics at the Australian National University. Andrew has written extensively on a range of subjects, including education, taxation and social policy. He also writes fortnightly for the Australian Financial Review.

Andrew holds a PhD in public policy from Harvard, having graduated from the University of Sydney with first class honours in Law and Arts. He has previously worked as a lawyer (including a stint as associate to former High Court Justice Michael Kirby), and as a principal adviser to the Australian Treasury.


‘Jemma Purdey reveals a multifaceted personality of an engaged political scientist and a committed humanist on a scale not known before.’
– Sabam P. Siagian, former Indonesian Ambassador to Australia

Herb Feith came to Australia as a Jewish refugee from an Austria reeling from the shock of Kristallnacht and a sense of impending doom and went on to become a renowned and passionate scholar of Indonesia. He died tragically in Melbourne in 2001. An inspiring figure, Feith was a pioneer in relations between Australia and Indonesia; a volunteer and civil servant working alongside Indonesians; a leading scholar, analyst and teacher; and an activist fighting for a better outcome for the impoverished and oppressed in Indonesia and around the world. He pioneered the influential program now known as Australian Volunteers International.

This is the story of Feith and his many extraordinary achievements. Indonesia was the focus of Feith’s work, scholarship and activism for fifty years, so this is also the story of a tumultuous period in Indonesian history and the relationship between Australia and Indonesia.

About the Author

Jemma Purdey is an Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies and the School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University. Her research interests include Indonesia’s ethnic Chinese minority, violence, human rights and Indonesian politics. She is author of Anti-Chinese Violence in Indonesia, 1996–1999 (NUS Publishing, 2006).