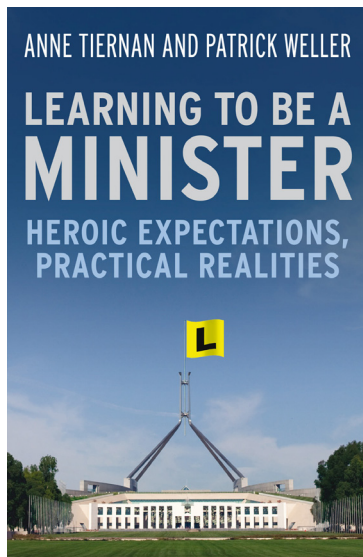


MEDIA RELEASE

Books with spine – the best in politics, current affairs and biography



MUP RRP \$39.99

PUBLICATION/EMBARGO DATE
9 AUGUST 2010

Patrick Weller and Anne Tiernan
are available for interview
during August.

For more information please
contact **Terri King** at MUP
on 03 9342 0319 or 0406 998 020,
or email taking@unimelb.edu.au

LEARNING TO BE A MINISTER Heroic Expectations, Practical Realities

by Anne Tiernan and Patrick Weller

In 1981, academic Patrick Weller teamed up with renowned political commentator and journalist Michelle Grattan to publish *Can Ministers Cope?*, a study of the challenges facing Australia's federal government ministers.

With the federal Labor government just twenty months into its first term in office, it was time to revisit the question 'Can ministers cope?' and to broaden the focus to ask *how* they cope, especially as relatively young and sometimes inexperienced players, in the transition to government after a long period in opposition.

Anne Tiernan and Patrick Weller draw on extensive interviews with current and former ministers, ministerial staffers and senior officials, to discover how a new ministry learns to juggle their simultaneous roles of member of Parliament and Cabinet, local constituency representative, and media spokesperson, not to mention their lives outside work.

Learning to Be a Minister is an in-depth examination of the day-to-day life of Australia's federal ministers at work.

Anne Tiernan is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Politics and Public Policy at Griffith University. She is author of *Power Without Responsibility: Ministerial Staffers in Australian Governments from Whitlam to Howard* (2007). Dr Tiernan sits on the Board of Commissioners of the Qld Public Service Commission and regularly advises governments on public sector issues.

Patrick Weller AO, a graduate of Oxford and the ANU, is the Premier of Queensland Chair of Public Management and director of the Centre for Governance and Public Policy at Griffith University, where he has held a chair since 1984. He is the author, co-author or editor of some 36 books on Australian politics and comparative institutions.

MELBOURNE · UNIVERSITY · PUBLISHING

MUP 187 Grattan Street Carlton 3053 Australia · +613 9342 0300 · mup-info@unimelb.edu.au · www.mup.com.au