

Linda Jean Burney is the first Aboriginal person to serve in the New South Wales Parliament. She has represented the south western Sydney region of Canterbury for the Australian Labor Party since 2003. She was re-elected in 2015.

After the March 2015 election Ms Burney was re-appointed as Deputy Leader and is the Shadow Minister for Education and Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

From 2007 to 2011 she served as a Minister in the Labor government in a range of portfolios, including Community Services.

She obtained a Diploma of Teaching and was the first Aboriginal graduate from the then Mitchell College of Advanced Education.

She began her career teaching at a public school in western Sydney in 1979. She has been involved in the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group since the mid-1980s and has participated in the development and implementation of the first Aboriginal education policy in Australia.

Ms Burney was an executive member of the National Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, President of the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and is a former Director-General of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs.