

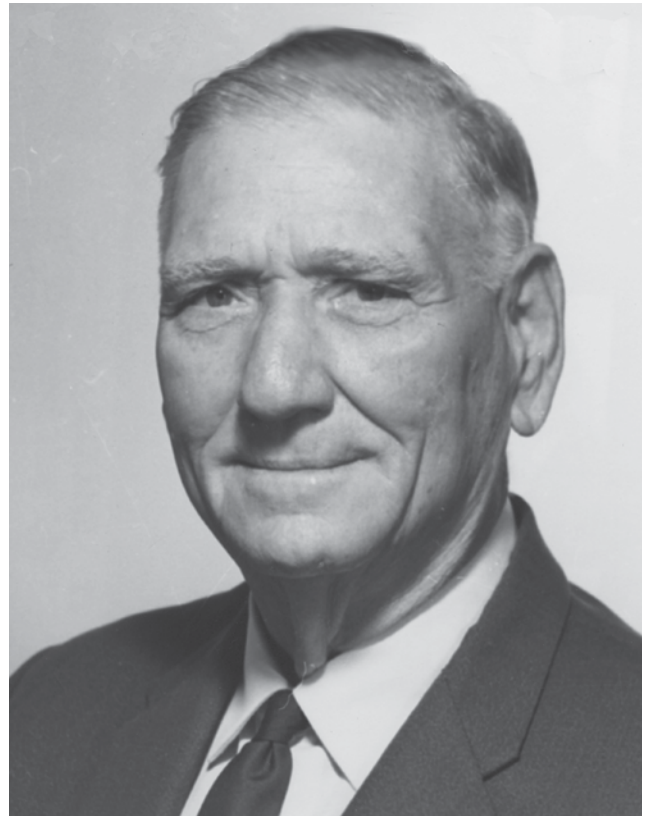


# The Role of an Independent Member of Parliament

As well as Liz Cunningham MP, and Thomas Aikens, there have been a number of other notable independents who have served in the Queensland Parliament. These include:

- Ernest Stevens served as an Independent in the Legislative Assembly from 1878 to 1896 before being appointed to the Legislative Council where he was a Member from 1899 to 1920. Mr Stevens represented the Electorates of Warrego and Logan during his almost 18 years as an elected representative in the Lower House before serving another 21 years as an appointed representative in the Upper House;
- Arthur Coburn was elected as an Independent member representing the electorate of Burdekin from 1950 to 1969;
- Peter Wellington, MP has been elected as an Independent for the electorate of Nicklin since 1998. Mr Wellington's decision to support the ALP after the 1998 election enabled the ALP to form a minority government during that year. In 2015, Mr Wellington was elected as Speaker of the Parliament, the first Independent member to hold that office in Queensland since the 1890s;
- Dorothy Pratt, MP was first elected to the Queensland Parliament in 1998 as a member of Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party. In 1999 she became an Independent and was elected as such at each subsequent election up until her retirement in 2012;

- Chris Foley, MP won a by-election for the electorate of Maryborough in April 2003 as an Independent and was re-elected at the 2006 and 2009 elections.



*Thomas Aikens, the longest-serving Independent in any Australian Parliament.*

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