

Fran Kelly

Leading political interviewer, commentator and radio presenter

Award-winning current affairs journalist and political correspondent Fran Kelly has hosted ABC Radio National's *Breakfast* programme since 2005. *Breakfast* is Australia's leading national morning current affairs radio show and regarded as required listening for Australian politicians and opinion leaders.

In fact, in early 2007, then Prime Minister John Howard referred to a radio interview that Fran had conducted with indigenous community leader Noel Pearson as being the motivation behind his 'Federal Indigenous Intervention' project, a controversial policy aimed at ending child sexual abuse in remote indigenous communities.

Fran Kelly is now a regular feature of the ABC's coverage of local and world affairs on both radio and television.

Fran is also frequently in demand as a host and panellist and for corporate and political events around Australia.

More about Fran Kelly:

Fran initially studied arts at Adelaide University, majoring in literature and classics, before becoming part of the Adelaide and Melbourne music scenes at the end of the 1970s. She was the singer for several bands and worked as the Activities Director for Adelaide's Flinders University. She moved to Melbourne to take up the post of Entertainment Director for La Trobe University and in 1984, Fran broadened her experience in arts management as the coordinator of the Statewide Women's Arts Festival for Victoria's 150th Anniversary celebrations.

During 1984 Fran also worked on Melbourne RRR's *Backchat* program, which featured women's current affairs, issues and talkback. The experience sparked a desire to embark on a new career.

Fran applied for a senior current affairs position with the ABC and, although unsuccessful, she was eventually asked to fill in for a few weeks. Then in 1988, she took up a three-month position in Sydney with *The Drum*, the current affairs program of the ABC's youth radio station, triple j. After 18 months, Fran moved to work on ABC Radio's flagship current affairs programs *AM* and *PM*.



In 1993 she moved to Canberra, working for ten years in various roles within the Canberra press gallery. Initially Fran remained with *AM* and *PM* and within a year she was their Chief Political Correspondent and Bureau Chief. In 1997 she swapped studios, joining ABC Radio National's *Breakfast* program as the political correspondent.

In 2001 she became political editor for ABC TV's *7.30 Report* and after two years she took up an overseas posting as the ABC's Europe correspondent based in London.

In March 2005, Fran returned home to Australia to take up her current position.

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