Accessible to whom and for what purposes? Researchers reflecting on working across 125 years of parliamentary proceedings

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I don’t need to tell you why parliamentary proceedings are important for democracy and transparency.

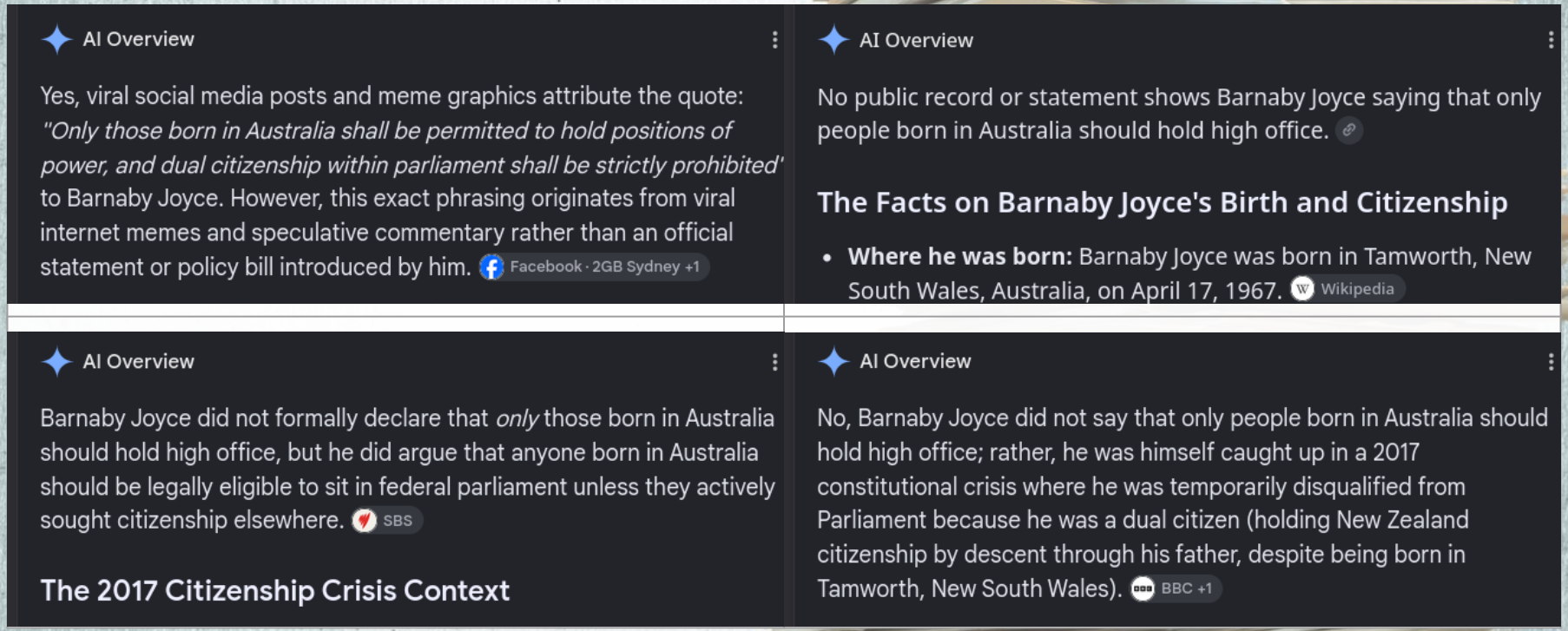
Proceedings have enormous value as records of history, language, culture and society.

Disinformation: Barnaby Joyce Didn't Do This…

In a website that purports to be an online news site, we find an article with the following passage:

"Standing before lawmakers inside Parliament House, Joyce slammed a thick folder onto the desk and introduced a bill that would ban anyone with dual citizenship from serving in Parliament, arguing it was necessary to protect national loyalty."

AI Overviews From A Query About This



AI Overview

Yes, viral social media posts and meme graphics attribute the quote: *"Only those born in Australia shall be permitted to hold positions of power, and dual citizenship within parliament shall be strictly prohibited"* to Barnaby Joyce. However, this exact phrasing originates from viral internet memes and speculative commentary rather than an official statement or policy bill introduced by him. Facebook · 2GB Sydney +1

AI Overview

No public record or statement shows Barnaby Joyce saying that only people born in Australia should hold high office.

The Facts on Barnaby Joyce's Birth and Citizenship

- **Where he was born:** Barnaby Joyce was born in Tamworth, New South Wales, Australia, on April 17, 1967. Wikipedia

AI Overview

Barnaby Joyce did not formally declare that *only* those born in Australia should hold high office, but he did argue that anyone born in Australia should be legally eligible to sit in federal parliament unless they actively sought citizenship elsewhere. SBS

The 2017 Citizenship Crisis Context

AI Overview

No, Barnaby Joyce did not say that only people born in Australia should hold high office; rather, he was himself caught up in a 2017 constitutional crisis where he was temporarily disqualified from Parliament because he was a dual citizen (holding New Zealand citizenship by descent through his father, despite being born in Tamworth, New South Wales). BBC +1

Proceedings as Records and Records are Data

What We Learned Working With Proceedings

Search interfaces are great:

- If you know what you're looking for
- You have the background knowledge/domain expertise

You can't search for what you don't know.

Access Challenges for Researchers

There Will Never Be One Way For Everyone

Proceedings as Data Collections Enables Transformative Access

- Lots of organisations and projects are already doing this
- But not necessarily coordinated
- Or with the same goals

How We Ended Up Here: Case Studies From Our Research

Federal Hansard as Data for our Case Studies

Unparliamentary Language

Angus Taylor doubles down on Albo ‘arrogant prick’ jab

Angus Taylor says Australians use far worse language than his “arrogant prick” barb directed at Anthony Albanese in parliament.

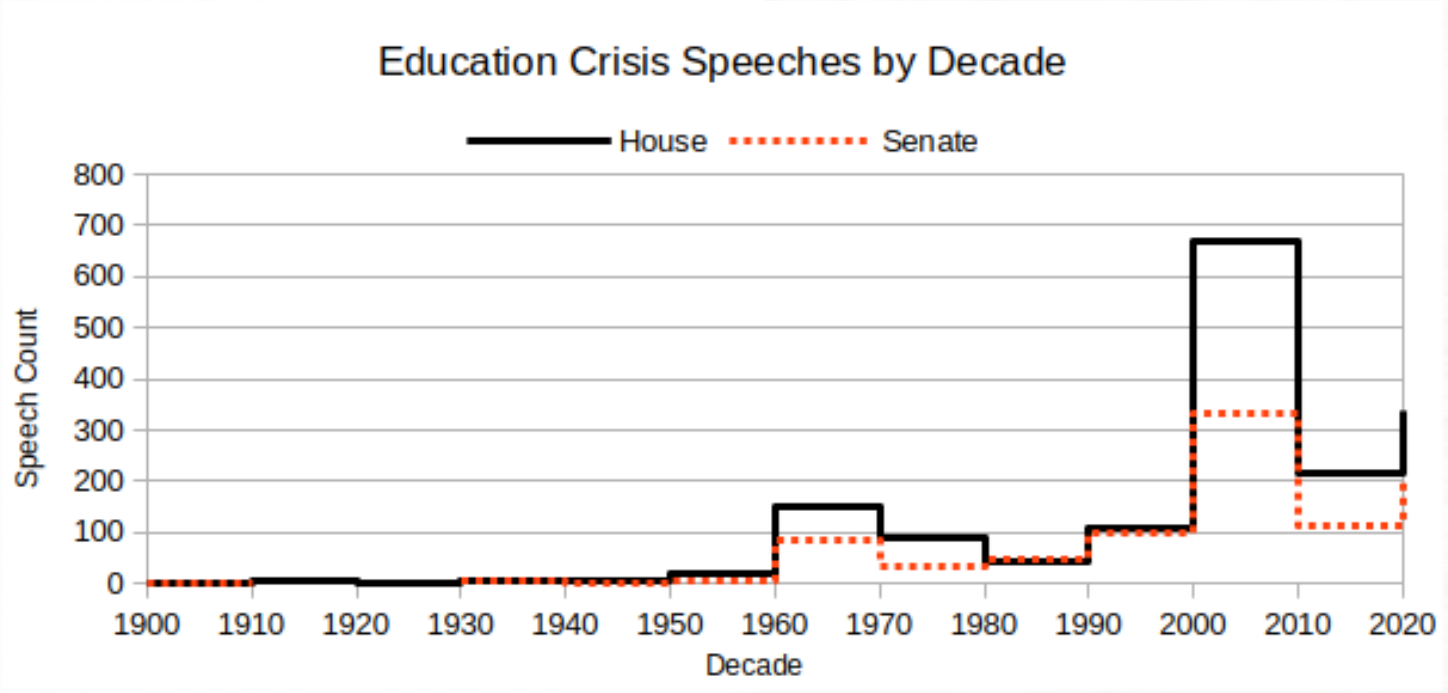
Blair Jackson

less than 2 min read May 29, 2026 - 8:38AM NewsWire

Example Word Cluster	Speeches	Trend by Parliament
imputations, motives, motive, impute, impugn, imputing, imputed, impugning, impugned, actuated, ulterior, imputes, soap, basest, chocolate, impugns, confectionery, biscuits, crystals, caviar	548	
quotation, obey, quotations, utterances, utterance, insinuations, characterized, insinuation, obeyed, alluding, allude, allusion, dishonorable, tittle, upright, obedience, disobey, servile, loyally, honorably	450	
rort, rorts, blown, blew, shonky, slush, whistle, blowing, fiddle, fiddling, ducked, belly, dummy, chased, bodgie, spit, fudge, spiv, breeze, perks	385	
fraud, fraudulent, frauds, cheats, cheating, crooks, scam, cheat, theft, defraud, defrauding, scams, swindle, forgery, defrauded, fraudulently, rorters, thieves, impersonation, overservicing	374	
preselection, misinformation, campaigning, peddling, campaigned, mistruths, scaremongering, mistruth, peddle, peddled, getup, apparatchiks, disinformation, crosby, preselected, fec, preselections, activist, campaigner, activists	355	
carpet, rat, ratted, swept, sweep, nailed, rats, squeal, squealing, mast, squeals, blankets, carpets, rodent, rat's, ratting, carpeted, pillow, bane, curtains	232	
dogs, dog, tail, cats, barking, dingo, whistling, sting, vomit, balaclavas, wagging, fleas, tickled, dingoes, mangy, canine, kilkenny, puppy, foxes, dixie	216	
racist, racism, vilification, vilified, bigot, vilify, racists, bigoted, bigotry, redneck, sexism, semitic, homophobic, xenophobic, rednecks, 18c, misogynist, racially, slut, supremacist	193	

Hansard as Data for Studying Education Crisis Rhetoric

Is the Skills Crisis an Education Crisis?



Demonstration: Expansive Search Interfaces

Collaborative (Research) Infrastructure For Enabling Access

Reusable &

Accessible

Public

Interest

Documents

RAPID-CDL Partners

RAPID-CDL is a co-investment partnership with the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) through the HASS and Indigenous Research Data Commons (DOI: 10.3565/y37z-4y53). The ARDC is enabled by the Australian Government's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).

Summing Up

- Thinking about and working with proceedings as collections empowers a broader audience and helps build networks (and you don’t need to do it all!)
- There is a lot of scope for better coordination
- Commercial search engines may not be your friend.

Get in Touch!

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The University Of Queensland AUSTRALIA

QUT the university for the real world

QCIF Digital Research³

Australian Research Data Commons

NCRIS National Research Infrastructure for Australia An Australian Government Initiative