TROY BRAMSTON

The overriding principle of Whitlam's life was contemporary relevance.

Gough Whitlam's death at age 98 on Nov 21, 2013—a month that prompted an emotional outburst of public emotion and a more general recognition of the policy adjustments he made—marked the centenary of his birth. He died in hospital on the final day of his term as prime minister.

Retrospectives on Whitlam's life and legacy often cited news coverage of November 1975. His dismissal was a turning point in Australian politics, the end of the era of liberal-conservative government. A decade of inter-party conflict saw the fall of Bob Hawke's Labor government in 1996, and the election of a Liberal-National Coalition government in 2010.

The Whitlam Institute in Sydney was launched by Bill Shorten on November 29. It was born when the first prime minister born in the 20th century. He was the first Labor leader to suffer defeat in an election. He was the first Labor leader and prime minister in my government, was the first to win back-to-back elections, and was the first to win back-to-back elections. He was the first Labor leader and prime minister in my government.

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