

# **A History of the Askin Government 1965-1975**

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## **Dedication**

This dissertation is dedicated to my family and good friends; Kate, Anthony, Benjamin Samuel, Thea and Mike. I will always be grateful for their patience, encouragement and unwavering support. And I have no doubt that they were instrumental in the completion of this PhD degree.

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## **Abstract**

This dissertation is a comprehensive evaluation of the Askin Government from 1965-1975. The thesis of the dissertation is that Askin's contribution as leader was crucial to the electoral success and longevity of the Liberal Country Party Coalition Government. As the study progressed it became clear that Askin's leadership was underpinned by his temperament and tactics. It is illustrated that Askin's successful leadership was based on his adherence to the proven political tactics often attributed to Machiavelli. His temperament also assisted his leadership aspirations and this is explained by using David Kersey's Temperament Sorter as a framework.

The discrepancy between the body of political history in NSW on Labor governments and Liberal governments is addressed. There are two significant novelties presented in this dissertation. This is the first substantial study of Askin's leadership and the coalition government. After Askin's death in 1981 his Premiership was shrouded in corruption allegations that took on mythical proportions and became received wisdom. The corruption myth is dispelled by demonstrating that it was founded on unsubstantiated allegations.

## **Candidate's Certification**

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not currently being submitted for any degree or qualification.

I certify that any help received in preparing this thesis and all sources used have been acknowledged in this thesis.

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## List of Acronyms

AFR	Australian Financial Review
AJPH	The Australian Journal of Politics and History
AIF	Australian Imperial Force
ALP	Australian Labor Party
AWU	Australian Workers' Union
CP	Country Party
KTS	Keirsey Temperament Sorter
KC	King's Counsel
LP	Liberal Party
NCC	National Civic Council
NSW	New South Wales
SMH	Sydney Morning Herald
SP	Starting Price
UAP	United Australia Party
WWI	World War I
WWII	World War II