



Suffrage stories

Born in Dunedin, Anna's Scottish parents raised her to have a keen social conscience. At 18 she married Robert Stout, a barrister and Member of the House of Representatives. He was a strong supporter of women's rights and Anna was influenced by his beliefs in sexual equality.

In 1892, Anna became president of the Women's Franchise League in Dunedin, one of the leading suffrage organisations. She was the foundation vice-president of the National Council of Women (NCW) in 1896, but fell out with the organisation a year later.

Anna came into her own when she lived in England from 1910 to 1912. The British suffrage movement was active and intense. In New Zealand, Anna was politically constrained by her husband's role as Chief Justice. In England, she supported the militant wing of British suffragism. Her letters to *The Times* opposed anti-suffrage arguments. She used New Zealand's experience to convincingly argue that women voting benefited a nation. London was a time of personal liberation. Anna walked through the streets in suffrage marches and spoke at Hyde Park demonstrations.

On her return to Wellington, Anna continued to advocate for women's social, sexual and political equality.

Lady Anna Stout

1858-1931



■ Lady Anna Stout, 1894. Credit: F.L. Jones photograph, Box-030-073, Te Uare Taoka o Hākena – The Hocken Collections, University of Otago.



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