

**Ashleigh Barty** also known as Ash Barty is known worldwide for being the number one ranked, woman in tennis, but she is much more than that. Ash Barty is a proud Ngaragu Women for Southeast NSW. Apart from tennis she used to be interested in Netball and Cricket. She played both as a child. She has inspired many non-Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Australians. As a child she grew up being extremely competitive but also a good sport, as she has an older brother.

Ash has an older brother called Ali, a younger sister called Sara, a mum called Josie, and a dad called Robert. Also, you might know, Ash is a major fan of dogs in fact, she has four called Rudy, Maxi, Affie, and Chino, that are mixed fluff balls. Ash was born on the 24th of April in 1997 in Ipswich, Queensland. Also, both her parents have a job. Her mum Josie is a Radiographer, and her dad Robert works at the State Library in Queensland, Australia. As a child Ash grew up in Spring Field. At an incredibly early age she was so talented she started to play tennis when she was four years old with her coach Jim Joyce. Then she fell in love with it. Ash had a good education unlike many other Indigenous Australians and made lots of achievements.

The time soon came for Ash Barty to start school and have an education. Ash went to a secondary school called Woodcrest State Collage located in the city of Ipswich, suburb of Spring Field. She won lots of scholarships and awards. Some of them are Perfect Attendance Awards, Honor Roll Exclusive for high grades, she won awards for MVP (most valued player), Fine Art awards, I could go on forever. As you can tell she was an incredibly good student. Ash has changed a lot from when she was a

teenager to where she is now. In fact, some of her interests were potentially playing cricket for the Australian Women's team! A girl remarkably like Ash is Evonne Goolagong who inspired her to be where she is today.

Evonne Goolagong is an Indigenous Australian and played lots tennis matches and was world number one at that time, but now she is retired. Also, when Ash won the World Cup in tennis Evonne Goolagong came up to present it to Ash, Ash was crying in happiness. They are both amazing athletes. Ash Barty does not have any children yet as she is currently 25 years old. Even though she does not have kids yet, she has a partner, in fact she is engaged to Garry Kissick. Garry Kissick is 30 years old currently. He is a PGA trainer professional golfer, at Brookland's Golf Club. Ash Barty has made many achievements during her career.

Ash Barty is known worldwide for a lot of her achievements. These include in 2010- 2012 making her debut in the Australian Tennis Open, coming 15th out of 200. In 2013 to 2014 she made a breakthrough in the women doubles. In 2016 to 2018 she returned to tennis singles breakthrough. The US open doubles champion, 2019 to 2020 French open champion world number one in singles. As you can see Ash Barty has travelled to a lot of places and achieved a lot of things in her time. But the biggest change that she chose to make shocked the world. Ash Barty decided to retire from tennis! We cannot get mad at her. But it is her decision, and we cannot just give up on her. She only retired because she said, "I have suffered from a very deep depression from homesickness," so she made the call to retire. Ash also said, "it was too much for me as I have been traveling from a very young age". She still has a lot to give to the world. Ash's greatest achievement is winning the World Cup which was special to her.

**So now you know why Ash Barty is so famous around the world, what she has proven and shown to the world. As you know she is a proud Ngaragu Women from Southeast NSW. She has shown that Indigenous Australians and women can do anything. That's what I love about Ash Barty.**