

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0426

## Dara, Dur-e Najaf

(1945 - )

---

**Born** 18 September, 1945, Ipoh Malaysia

---

**Occupation** Businesswoman, Philanthropist, Restaurateur, Social worker

---

### Summary

Dur-e Dara was awarded the Medal of The Order of Australia (OAM) in 1997 for services to the community and promotional and fundraising activities for women's groups.

### Details

Born in Malaysia and of Indian descent, Dur-e Dara settled in Australia in 1962. She attended Presbyterian Ladies' College before completing a Social Welfare Degree at the University of Melbourne.

Dur-e Dara worked in youth welfare at Winlaton and Turana for the Youth Welfare Division of the Victorian Social Welfare Department for three years. In 1976 she joined *Stephanie's Restaurant* as a casual waiter and later became manager and co-proprietor. She was to spend over 20 years at *Stephanie's*, in which time she also helped to establish the *Pavilion* (later *Donovan's*) in St Kilda and the *Nudel Bar* in the Melbourne business district. With Barbara Harper in 1997, she entered a partnership in the Tea Corporation, a high quality tea import, wholesale and retail business. In 2000 she established a consortium/partnership for *Lip* café bar as well setting up a consortium of small investors for *EQ Cafebar* (Southbank).

Dur-e Dara is President of the Restaurant and Catering Association of Victoria; Convenor of the Victorian Women's Trust; Vice-President of Philanthropy Australia; and board member of the Victorian Wineries Tourism Council and Business Matrix Victoria. She is Director of the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition, and serves on the advisory boards of the Women's Reference Group of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Commission; William Angliss College; RMIT School of Tourism and Hospitality; and the Swinburne School of Hospitality and Tourism.

She is also Patron of the Victorian Foundation for the Survivors of Torture; elder, Women's Circus Victoria; and a member of the Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition, the Tamil Elam Women's Organisation, the Melbourne Chapter of the Australian Symposium of Gastronomy, Asia Link, Habitat for Humanity and Asia Society.

In addition to her OAM, Dur-e Dara received The Vida Goldstein Award for excellence in her trade, and was selected as one of 150 on the Inaugural Women's Honour Roll, a Victorian Government initiative as part of the Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2001.

### Events

#### 2001 - 2001

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

#### 2001 - 2001

Awarded the Centenary Medal 'for service to the restaurant industry'

#### 1997 - 1997

Awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) 'in recognition of service to the community and to promotional and fundraising activities for women's groups'

## Published resources

### Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 2002, Herd, Margaret, 2002

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

**Created** 16 January 2003

**Last modified** 9 May 2019

## Digital resources



**Title:** Dure Dara

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 3 May, 2023