

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Organisation

**Entry ID:** AWE0446

## Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC)

(1948 - )

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<b>Born</b>	19481101
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<b>Occupation</b>	Armed services organisation
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### Summary

The Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps was formed from the Royal Australian Army Nursing Service and the Australian Army Medical Women's Service. Since being established members of the service have served in many theatres of war and other operations including Vietnam, the 1991 Gulf War, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bougainville and East Timor.

### Events

#### 1952 - 1952

A Corps Badge with the motto Pro Humanitate – for Humanity was introduced.

#### 1904 - 1914

A Lady Superintendent and Matron appointed to all states

#### 1916 - 1916

A Matron-in-Chief appointed to administer the service and advise the Director General of Medical Services (which controlled the Service) on service matters.

#### 1914 - 1918

A total of 2139 sisters served overseas and another 423 served in Australia. 25 sisters died and 388 were decorated for their service which included 5 CBE, 10 OBE, 42 RRC and 23 foreign awards

#### 1939 - 1945

A total of 3477 joined the Service with 71 members losing their lives (23 battle casualties and 18 died as a result of accident or illness). 137 decorations were awarded including two George medals.

#### 1949 - 1949

Approval given to appoint female officers and enlist female Other Ranks into the Regular Army, to provide nursing staff for an overseas General Hospital and Camp Hospitals in Australia.

#### 1958 - 1958

Approval was granted for the adoption of a corps flag for the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.

#### 1983 - 1983

Approval was granted for the traditional colours of grey and scarlet to be used for all Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps embellishments.

#### 2003 - 2003

Ceremony, including a wreath-laying service and parade from the Nurses Memorial on Anzac Parade to the Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial, held to celebrate the centenary of the RAANC and the RAAMC.

#### 1957 - 1957

Colonel A M Sage, CBE, RRC, FNM, was appointed as the first Honorary Colonel and Representative Honorary Colonel to the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.

**1997 - 1997**

Head of Corps abolished.

**2001 - 2001**

Head of Corps re-appointed

**1948 - 1948**

In recognition of the service given in two world wars the title Royal was designated to the Service – now called Royal Australian Army Nursing Service.

**1967 - 1971**

In total 43 Officers served in Vietnam.

**1955 - 1969**

Members served in Malaya

**1992 - 2001**

Nursing Officers participated in all United Nations Deployments.

**1990 - 1990**

Nursing Officers sent as part of Australia's commitment to the United Nations force to the Gulf War.

**1966 - 1969**

Nursing sisters sent to Papua New Guinea to care for the wives and families of the indigenous servicemen.

**1945 - 1945**

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, accepted the appointment of Honorary Colonel of the Australian Army Nursing Service.

**1903 - 1948**

The Australian Army Nursing Service Reserve, which formed the basis of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps established.

**1943 - 1943**

The Australian Army Nursing Service, formerly an auxiliary service, was incorporated as part of the Australian Military Forces.

**1970 - 1970**

The first Alice Appleford award was presented. The award is present annually by the Ex-AAMWS to a non-commissioned member for proficiency in service.

**1979 - 1979**

The first issue of the Corps Magazine "Grey and Scarlet" published. It is currently published annually.

**1899 - 1902**

The first nursing sisters to serve with Australian troops were those who travelled with the Colonial Military Forces to the South African (Boer War).

**1902 - 1902**

The General Order giving effect to an improved organisation for nurses was written in 1902 and promulgated on the 1st July 1903.

**1936 - 1936**

The Matron-in-Chief and Principal matrons from each state were sent to England with the Coronation contingent.

**1951 - 1951**

The Service was designated a Corps – now called the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC). In the same year the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) was disbanded.

## Published resources

### Book

The Australian Army: A History of its Organisation 1901-2001, Palazzo, Albert, 2001

Just wanted to be there : Australian Service Nurses 1899-1999, Reid, Richard, 1999

### Resource Section

Australian Servicewomen's Memorial, Southwell-Keely, Michael, 1999,  
<http://www.skp.com.au/memorials/pages/00018.htm>

### Journal Article

Vale - Barbara Edwina Audrey Starrett (nee Maxwell) Colonel and Last Director of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, 1991

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### Australian War Memorial, Research Centre

Margaret Young, Australian Red Cross Field Force Officer, and F35071 Janice Christina Ann (Jan) McCarthy, Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC), nursing sister, hanging out the washing outside "Fort Petticoat"

Group portrait of officers of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC) and one officer of the Australian Red Cross (ARC), standing in front of the nurse's quarters located at the British Military Hospital, 28th Infantry Brigade, Terendak Garrison

Portrait of Sister Betty Crocker, Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC)

Six Sisters of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC) wave farewell from the gangplank of MV New Australia on embarkation for service in Malaya.

### Author Details

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