

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0483

## Williams, Meta Talbot

(1918 - 2010)

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<b>Born</b>	7 July, 1918, Brisbane Queensland Australia
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<b>Died</b>	13 November, 2010
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<b>Occupation</b>	Community worker
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### Summary

On 29 June 1985 Meta Williams was appointed to the Order of the British Empire – Officer (Civil) (OBE) for services to the Girl Guide Movement.

Williams' association with Guiding commenced at the end of 1930 when she became a member of the 1st Coorparoo Company (23rd Brisbane) and was enrolled in early 1931. She went on to hold a variety of positions at local, state and national levels.

In 1984 Williams researched and compiled the publication *The Continuing Challenge: a history of Queensland Guiding from 1919-84* which was launched by Senator Lady Bjelke-Petersen. This was followed by *The Continuing Challenge Part 1 1984-91* in 1992 as well as histories of four former State Commissioners' terms of office.

Williams was also a member of the state executive of the YWCA Queensland, member of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship in Queensland and the Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association (Queensland).

In March 1981 Meta Williams was honoured in being elected Mother of the Year (Queensland).

### Events

#### 1961 - 1990

Member of the State Council of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

#### 1976 - 1981

Member of the Australian Executive Girl Guides Association of Australia

#### 1976 - 1981

State Commissioner of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

#### 1973 - 1976

State Headquarters Commissioner of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

#### 1974 - 1975

Australian Policy, Organisation and Rules Co-ordinator of the Girl Guides Association

#### 1972 - 1973

Region Commissioner of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

#### 1970 - 1972

State Camping Advisor of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

#### 1965 - 1970

State Guide Advisor

**1961 - 1965**

Division Commissioner of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

**1936 - 1944**

Guide Leader of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

**1930 -**

Member of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

**1981 - 1986**

State Treasurer of the YWCA Queensland

**1980 - 1991**

Member of the YWCA Queensland

**1982 - 1985**

Honorary Treasurer of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship in Queensland

**1981 - 1991**

Member of United Nations Queensland Branch

**1976 - 1987**

Member of the Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association of Australia Inc Queensland Branch

**1987 - 1992**

Assistant State Archivist of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

**1981 - 1986**

Vice-President of the State Council of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

**1976 - 1981**

Chairman of the State Executive of the Girl Guides Association of Queensland

**2018 - 2018**

Born: daughter of Hubert Lethbridge and Gladys Elwyn Talbot Deshon

**1981 - 1981**

Queensland Mother of the Year

**1969 - 1969**

Awarded the Red Kangaroo for Guiding

**2043 - 2043**

Married: Roderick Guildford Williams and they had one daughter

## Published resources

### Edited Book

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

### Resource Section

State Commissioner 1976 - 1981,

[http://www.guidesqld.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=76&Itemid=51](http://www.guidesqld.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=76&Itemid=51)

### Book

The continuing challenge. Part 2, A brief history of the progression and achievements of the Girl Guides Association (Queensland, Australia) July 1984 - March 1991, Williams, Meta (researched and compiled by), 1991

Lady Macartney, State Commissioner, 1919-1945: the first twenty-five years, Williams, Meta (compiled by), 1992

Mrs Lilian Gresham, MBE, State Commissioner, 1945-1954: the post-war reconstruction era, Williams, Meta (compiled by), 1992

Mrs Meta Williams, OBE, State Commissioner, 1976-1981: the progressive seventies, Williams, Meta (researched and compiled by), 1992

Mrs Joie Dwyer, State Commissioner, 1986-1991: challenge and achievement, Williams, Meta (researched and compiled by), 1992

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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