

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0620

## Kent, Ivy Mary

(1893 - 1974)

|                   |  |
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| <b>Born</b>       | 18930510, Parramatta New South Wales Australia |
| <b>Died</b>       | 19740401, Western Australia Australia          |
| <b>Occupation</b> | Community worker, Women's rights activist      |

### Summary

Ivy Kent, the daughter of William and Elizabeth Woods, was educated at Iona Convent (New South Wales) and Mosman's Park in Western Australia. Kent, who was a leader in the Labour Women's Movement of Western Australia, a worker in youth welfare and an officer of the Housewives Association, established a club for neglected girls during World War I. She served on the Married Women's Relief Court for 20 years and was a member of the Lotteries Commission, the Adult Education Board, the National Fitness Executive and Soldiers' Dependants' Appeal. In 1944 Kent became the first woman commissioner of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (representing Western Australia). In 1953 Kent was elected Foundation President of the Association of Civilian Widows in Western Australia, a movement which became national five years later. In 1959 she was elected National President, and later, National Life Governor. On 1 January 1968 Ivy Kent was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire for her service to the welfare of women and children.

### Events

- 1968 - 1968**  
Appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire
- 1944 - 1951**  
First woman member of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (representing Western Australia)
- 1945 - 1969**  
Foundation member of the National Fitness Council of Western Australia
- 1953 - 1971**  
Foundation president of the Association of Civilian Widows in Western Australia
- 1936 - 1936**  
Made a Justice of the Peace
- 1910 - 1910**  
Married Arthur G Kent, they had 4 sons (all served in World War II) and 4 daughters
- 1959 - 1959**  
National President of the Association of Civilian Widows

## Published resources

### Journal Article

[Ivy Kent - resume of the life of Mrs. Ivy Kent], 1990

### Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia, 1947, Chisholm, Alec H, 1947

A Biographical Register 1788-1939: Notes from the name index of the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Volume I, A-K., Gibbney, H. J. and Smith, Ann G., 1987

### Book

Reflections : profiles of 150 women who helped make Western Australia's history; Project of the Womens Committee for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of Western Australia, Popham, Daphne; Stokes, K.A.; Lewis, Julie, 1979

Women on the warpath : feminist of the first wave, Davidson, Dianne, 1997

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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