

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0668

## Durbin, Dorothy (Joan)

(1922 - 2025)

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<b>Born</b>	19220516, Adelaide South Australia Australia
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<b>Died</b>	20250212, Adelaide South Australia Australia
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<b>Occupation</b>	Educator, Historian, Nurse
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### Summary

Joan Durbin, author of *They Became Nurses: A History of Nursing in South Australia, 1836-1980* (1991) and *Eleven Thousand Nurses: A History of Nursing Education at the Royal Adelaide Hospital 1889-1993* (1999), was a nurse educator and historian who contributed much to the advancement of nursing through the development of advanced education in the higher education sector. In addition to her ten years' teaching at Royal Adelaide Hospital she spent six years as a nurse educator in Papua New Guinea. She conducted extensive oral history interviews for the Royal Adelaide Hospital Heritage and History Committee, 1991-1998. Durbin received an Honorary Doctorate from Flinders University in 1994, was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1985 and is commemorated by the Joan Durbin Oration, an annual event initiated and sponsored by the Department of Clinical Nursing at the University of Adelaide.

### Published resources

#### Resource

Where are the Women in Australian science?, Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre, 2003, <http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/wisa/wisa.html>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Book

Eleven thousand nurses : a history of nursing education at Royal Adelaide Hospital 1889-1993, Durbin, Joan, 1999

Eleven thousand nurses : a history of nursing education at the Royal Adelaide Hospital 1889-1993, Durbin, Joan, 1999

They Became Nurses : A History of Nursing in South Australia, 1836-1980, Durbin, Joan, 1991

#### Thesis

Learning to be a Nurse 1879-1920 : Early Steps in the Professionalisation of Nursing in South Australia, Durbin, J.D.

### Archival resources

#### State Library of South Australia

[Interview with Marlienne Thomson \[sound recording\]](#) Interviewer: Joan Durbin

#### Author Details

Helen Morgan

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