

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE1199

Sykes, Roberta (Bobbi)

(1944 - 2010)

Nationality Australian

Born 1 January, 1944, Townsville Queensland Australia

Died 14 November, 2010, Sydney New South Wales Australia

Occupation Academic, Administrator, Health worker, Journalist, Writer

Summary

Roberta (Bobbi) Sykes was born and brought up in Townsville, Queensland. She left school at 14 and trained as a nurse. In 1971 she moved to Sydney, and in 1972 helped establish the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra. She worked as Education and Publicity Officer for the newly founded Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern, and began a ten-year career as a freelance journalist. She has written poetry and film reviews, and contributed to contemporary discussions on a wide range of indigenous issues.

From 1975 to 1980 Bobbi Sykes was an adviser on Aboriginal health and education to the New South Wales Health Commission, following which she moved to the United States and completed her doctorate on Aboriginal education at Harvard University. Upon her return to Sydney, she continued writing and lecturing. She has held appointments at Charles Sturt and Macquarie universities and has worked as a consultant.

Published resources

Conference Paper

Dr Roberta Sykes, Sykes, Roberta (Bobbi), 1987

Book

Murawina : Australian women of high achievement, Roberta Sykes ; photography by Sandy Edwards, 1993

Snake cradle, Snake dancing and Snake circle (autobiographical trilogy), Sykes, Roberta (Bobbi), 1997-

Love poems and other revolutionary actions, Sykes, Roberta (Bobbi), 1988

Black majority, Sykes, Roberta (Bobbi), 1989

Mum Shirl: an autobiography with the assistance of Bobbi Sykes, Mum Shirl, 1981

Women who do and women who don't join the women's movement, Rowland, Robyn, 1984

Book Section

While my name is remembered, Sykes, Roberta (Bobbi), 1994

Black women in Australia - a history, Sykes, Roberta (Bobbi), 1975

Edited Book

The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia : Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture, Horton, David, 1994

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Papers of Judith Wright, 1944-2000 \[manuscript\]](#)

Author Details

Leonarda Kovacic and Barbara Lemon

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