

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1217

Stainton, Irene

Nationality Australian

Occupation Administrator, Child welfare worker, Cultural advisor

Summary

Alongside her work in Aboriginal child welfare, Irene Stainton has long been an advocate for Aboriginal cultural heritage, holding a series of advisory positions at state and national levels.

Details

Following her father, who was Manager of the Aboriginal Advancement Council in Perth, Irene Stainton became deeply involved in indigenous affairs. She worked in child welfare for many years with the Yorganop Aboriginal Child Care Agency in Perth, becoming secretary of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care.

Stainton's interest in Aboriginal culture was deep-seated and twice she presented discussion papers to the United Nations (Geneva, 1994; Switzerland, 1995). She was the Registrar of Aboriginal sites before being appointed Chairperson of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee in the Aboriginal Affairs Department. In this capacity she presented a paper for the Indigenous Heritage Workshop of the National Trust's State Heritage Convention in Western Australia in 1999.

Stainton serves as a board member for both the Western Australian Museum (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee) and the Berndt Museum of Anthropology at the University of Western Australia.

She was an Aboriginal Council member for the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families.

Published resources

Report

Western Australian Aboriginal Affairs Dept., Annual Report, Stainton, Irene, 2000

Book

The Black Grapevine: Aboriginal Activism and the Stolen Generations, Briskman, Linda, 2003

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

Leonarda Kovacic and Barbara Lemon

Created 15 June 2005
Last modified 12 February 2019