

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE1246

## Dyer, Mollie

(1927 - 1998)

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<b>Born</b>	19270101, Barmah New South Wales Australia
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<b>Died</b>	19981231, Victoria Australia
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<b>Occupation</b>	Child welfare worker, Community worker
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### Summary

Mollie Dyer, of Yorta Yorta descent, was instrumental in establishing the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) in 1977, and became its first Program Director. She fostered 20 children from Aboriginal communities in Victoria, as well as having six of her own. She advocated for the adoption legislation in Victoria to prevent Aboriginal families unnecessarily surrendering their children and was involved with the establishment of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) in the early 1980s.

Dyer received an Advance Australia medal and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1979 for 'her outstanding contribution to the advancement and enrichment of Australia, its people and its way of life'.

Mollie Dyer died in 1998 after a long illness.

### Published resources

#### Book

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

#### Edited Book

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

#### Journal Article

Aboriginal children: back to origins, Butler, Brian, 1993

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Archival resources

#### AIATSIS Pictorial Collection

[Burns Family Portraits](#)

[Early scenes from Roseby Park and Brewarrina](#)

#### AIATSIS Sound Collection

[Life Stories of elderly Aboriginal people in Victoria](#)

### Author Details

Leonarda Kovacic and Barbara Lemon

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