Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0056

Kenny, Elizabeth

(1880 - 1952)

Born	18800920, Warialda New South Wales Australia
Died	19521130, Toowoomba Queensland Australia
Occupation	Health administrator, Nurse

Summary

Elizabeth Kenny developed a new treatment for infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis). Guided by Dr Aeneas McDonnell of Toowoomba, she developed a thorough knowledge of human musculature. [1]

Although Kenny never completed any nursing training or registered as a nurse, she opened a hospital at Clifton, near Toowoomba, in 1913. In 1915 she joined the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) and completed 12 round sea voyages between England and Australia with the returning wounded. During this time she earned her promotion to Sister, a title she used all her life. [2]

During the 1930s she established clinics in Brisbane with the backing of the State government, but with opposition from the medical profession. In 1940 she moved to the United States of America where her methods were widely acclaimed and gradually accepted world wide. Kenny returned to Queensland in 1951 and died in Toowoomba on 30 November 1952.

[1] *200 Australian Women* p. 124
[2] ibid

Events

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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

Resource Section
Kenny, Elizabeth (1881-1952), Patrick, Ross, 2006, http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090570b.htm

SISTER ELIZABETH KENNY, 2002

Book
100 great Australians, Macklin, Robert, 1983

The Complete Book of Great Australian Women: Thirty-six women who changed the course of Australia, De Vries, Susanna, 2003

Edited Book
200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988, https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20071105022623/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/78644/20071105-1315/www.200australianwo

Archival resources

Fryer Library, The University of Queensland
Elizabeth Kenny Papers

Rae William Dungan Papers

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra
Application for Letters Patent for an invention by Elizabeth Kenny, titled - An improved transport stretcher

Application for Letters Patent for an invention by Elizabeth Kenny, titled - A surgical appliance for supporting the injured members of patients bodies during their transport

Elizabeth Kenny Clinic

AUTHOR Elizabeth Kenny : ADDRESS Sydney : TITLE OF WORK Infantile Paralysis and Cerebral Diplegia

AUTHOR Elizabeth Kenny : ADDRESS Nobby, Qld : TITLE OF WORK The Kenny Method of Treatment of Paralysis (Polio Myelitis or Infantile Paralysis, Spastic Paralysis and Birth Paralysis)

[1947 file - dark blue tab] Kenny, Elizabeth (Sister)

Supply of Agricultural and Scientific Information. Elizabeth Kenny Institute for Infantile Paralysis

KENNY Elizabeth : Service Number - Sister : Place of Birth - Warialda NSW : Place of Enlistment - N/A : Next of Kin - (Mother) KENNY M

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection
Elizabeth Kenny - papers, 1936-1937

Author Details
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