

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0563

## Flett, Penelope (Penny) Ruth

(1947 - 2025)

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**Born** 19 March, 1947

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**Died** 6 March, 2025

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**Occupation** Medical administrator

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### Summary

Dr Penny Flett, who settled in Australia in 1965, was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003 for service to the aged and disabled community through the Brightwater Care Group. Prior to becoming the Chief Executive Officer of the Brightwater Care Group on 23 July 1986 Flett worked in a variety of positions including four years with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). In 1974 she became the first woman in peacetime to hold a male rank and the first woman doctor to serve in the RAAF. Penny Flett was named Telstra Australian Business Woman of the Year in 1998.

### Events

#### 2003 - 2003

Awarded the Centenary Medal

#### 1999 -

Member St George's College Council

#### 1986 -

Chief Executive Officer of the Brightwater Care Group (Inc.)

#### 1974 - 1974

First woman in peacetime to hold a male rank and first woman doctor to serve in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)

#### 1965 - 1965

Settled in Australia

#### 1997 - 2000

Chair of the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency Board

#### 1998 - 1998

Telstra Australian Businesswoman of the Year

#### 1999 -

Member of the Australian Bravery Decorations Council

#### 1999 - 2002

Board member of the Positive Ageing Foundation, Western Australia

#### 2001 - 2002

Board member of the State Training Board of Western Australia

## Published resources

### **Edited Book**

Who's Who in Australia 2002, Herd, Margaret, 2002

### **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

### **Report**

Extended care services in metropolitan Perth : directions for change, Planning and Research Branch, Health Department of Western Australia., 1986

## Archival resources

### **National Library of Australia**

[Biographical cuttings on Dr Penny Flett, first woman doctor to serve in peace time as an officer in the medical service, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

### **Author Details**

Anne Heywood

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