

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0977

## Clayton, Iris

(1945 - 2009)

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<b>Born</b>	15 February, 1945, Leeton New South Wales Australia
<b>Died</b>	5 July, 2009, Bega New South Wales Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Author, Community worker, Health worker, Public servant, Researcher

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### Summary

Iris Clayton was taken to the Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls in the 1950s, and from there sent to work as a servant in Canberra. At the age of 18 she was allowed to return home where she married. She returned to Canberra in 1977 to work at AIATSIS, first as a library assistant and later on the switchboard, where she stayed for a number of years. She was awarded a grant to research the Wiradjuri births, deaths and marriages, and her findings have been deposited at AIATSIS.

From 1991, Clayton worked as a health worker at the Winnanga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service in Canberra. She was involved in community issues and served as a council member of the ACT Cultural Council. She influenced a generation of Canberra school children by becoming a regular visitor to ACT schools, sharing her stories and explaining her culture.

Iris Clayton died on 5 July 2009 at Bega, New South Wales, after more than a decade of recurrent health problems.

### Published resources

#### Edited Book

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

#### Book

Wiradjuri of the rivers and plains, Clayton, Iris and Barlow, Alex, 1997

#### Newspaper Article

Problems with Aboriginal Genealogical Research, Clayton, Iris, 1989

#### Journal Article

Wiradjuri Identity, Clayton, Iris, 1988

Obituary: Iris Rose Clayton (1945 - 2009), Scarlett, Philippa, 2009

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### **AIATSIS Film Collection**

[Iris Clayton looks at Institute collections, and opening of community centre in Dubbo](#)

### **AIATSIS Pictorial Collection**

[Portrait of Iris Clayton and other staff at the Australian National University](#)

### **AIATSIS Manuscript and Rare Books Collection**

[\[Poems\]](#)

[\[Warengesda births, deaths and marriages\]](#)

### **AIATSIS Sound Collection**

[Wiradjuri words](#)

[Family history](#)

[Interviews with Iris Clayton](#)

### **Author Details**

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