

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE3976

## Read, Irene Victoria

(1880 - 1972)

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<b>Born</b>	29 August, 1880, Sydney New South Wales Australia
<b>Died</b>	27 August, 1972, Mosman New South Wales Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Charity worker, Community worker, Philanthropist

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### Summary

Irene Read was active in many women's associations and charities in the first half of the twentieth century. During World War 2 she was very active in the Women's Australian National Services, an organisation she helped to found of which she was Executive Chairwoman from 1942 until the demise of the organization in 1948.

### Details

Irene Read began her career as a volunteer welfare worker at the age of twenty, with the Sydney Medical Mission. Belonging to an influential Sydney network of prominent professional and philanthropic women engaged in community work, she was a member of the Women's Club by 1908 and while president (1925-29) was its delegate on the National Council of Women of New South Wales (executive-member, 1928). She chaired the ladies' committee of the Havilah Church of England Children's Home and was a council-member (1931-54) of the women's central auxiliary of the New South Wales Society for Crippled Children. In 1936 she joined the Women's Executive Committee and the Women's Advisory Council for Australia's 150th Anniversary Celebrations and in 1938 was appointed O.B.E.

### Published resources

#### Resource Section

Read, Irene Victoria (1881-1972), Weatherburn, Hilary, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A110354b.htm>

#### Edited Book

Women in Australia : an annotated guide to records, Daniels, Kay, Murnane, Mary, Picot, Anne and National Research Program (Australia), 1977

#### Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Archival resources

#### Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

[Irene Victoria Read papers, pictorial material and relics, 1839-1951](#)

**Author Details**

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