

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE4027

## Cooper, Lilian Violet

(1861 - 1947)

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<b>Born</b>	11 August, 1861, Clapham England
<b>Died</b>	18 August, 1947, Kangaroo Point Brisbane Queensland Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Medical practitioner, Surgeon

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### Summary

Described as 'a tall, angular, brusque, energetic woman, prone to bad language'. Lilian Cooper completed her medical training, despite opposition from her parents, at the London School of Medicine for Women in 1890. She travelled to Australia in 1891, settling in Brisbane, Queensland, where she became the first female doctor registered in Queensland. Some years later, she travelled back to Europe, via the United States. She received a doctorate of medicine from the University of Durham in June 1912.

Cooper settled again in Brisbane after the end of the Great War and established a large and successful practice. In 1926 she bought a house called Old St Mary's in Main Street, Kangaroo Point, Brisbane and settled there in semi-retirement, becoming a foundation fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1928. She retired in 1941 and died in her home on 18 August 1947.

### Published resources

#### Resource Section

Cooper, Lilian Violet (1861-1947), Leggett, C. A. C., 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080116b.htm>

Lilian Cooper and Josephine Bedford: Lifelong companions who travelled against the tide, State Library of Queensland, 2008,  
[http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibit/online/travelling/cooper\\_bedford](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on/exhibit/online/travelling/cooper_bedford)

Lesbians in 1900s Brisbane, Carole Ferrier, 2005,  
[http://www.emsah.uq.edu.au/awsr/Act\\_Centenary/lesbianbrisbane.htm](http://www.emsah.uq.edu.au/awsr/Act_Centenary/lesbianbrisbane.htm)

Lilian Violet Cooper, Cazalar, Lorraine, 2006,  
[http://eresearch.griffith.edu.au/brisbanememories/index.php/Lilian\\_Violet\\_Cooper](http://eresearch.griffith.edu.au/brisbanememories/index.php/Lilian_Violet_Cooper)

Lilian Violet Cooper: 1861 -1947 Queensland's First Female Medical Practitioner, Cazalar, Lorraine, 2006,  
[http://eresearch.griffith.edu.au/brisbanememories/index.php/Lilian\\_Violet\\_Cooper](http://eresearch.griffith.edu.au/brisbanememories/index.php/Lilian_Violet_Cooper)

#### Book Section

Lilian Cooper (1861-1947) and Bedford, Josephine (1861-1955), Grant, Heather, 2005,  
<http://www.women.qld.gov.au/q150/1900/index.html#item-josephine-bedford>

Cooper, Lilian Violet (1861-1947) and Bedford, Mary Josephine (1861-1955), Moore, C. R., 2001

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Author Details

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