

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** IMP0018

## Campbell, Kate Isabel

(1899 - 1986)

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**Born** 22 April, 1899, Hawthorn Victoria Australia

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**Died** 12 July, 1986, Melbourne Victoria Australia

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**Occupation** Medical scientist

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### Summary

In 1951 Dr Kate Campbell, a specialist in children's diseases, was the first person to prove the link between retrolental fibroplasia (a blindness in premature babies) and oxygen levels in humidicribs. She was appointed to the Order of the British Empire (Dames Commander) on 1 January 1971 for services to the welfare of Australian children. Along with Norman Gregg she was co-winner of the first *Encyclopaedia Britannica* award for medicine in 1964. Dr Campbell had previously been recognised for her services to medical science when appointed to the Order of the British Empire – Commander (Civil) on 1 January 1954.

### Details

The daughter of Donald and Janet (née Duncan) Campbell, Kate Campbell was awarded scholarships to attend both the Methodist Ladies College and the University of Melbourne, where she obtained her Bachelor of Medicine (MB), Bachelor of Surgery (BS) in 1922 and Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 1924. Dr Campbell became resident medical officer at the Melbourne Children's and later the Royal Women's Hospitals. In 1927 she established a general medical practice and ten years later became a consultant paediatrician.

Dr Campbell was appointed medical officer to the Victorian Baby Health Centre's association, a position she held for over 40 years. She was also honorary paediatrician at the Queen Victoria Hospital (Melbourne) (1926-1965), consultant from 1965 and honorary paediatrician at the Royal Women's Hospital (Melbourne) from 1965. From 1929-1965 Dr Campbell lectured in neonatal paediatrics at the University of Melbourne. Together with Vera Scantlebury Brown and A Elizabeth Wilmot she wrote the Department of Health's *Guide to the Care of the Young Child*. In 1951, she wrote a paper on the cause of blindness in premature babies, for which she received worldwide recognition. A member of the Lyceum Club, Kate Campbell was also awarded an honorary LLD (Melbourne) in 1966.

### Events

#### 2001 - 2001

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

## Published resources

### Edited Book

Who's Who of Australian Women, Lofthouse, Andrea, 1982

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988

The Half-open door : sixteen modern Australian women look at professional life and achievement, Grimshaw, Patricia and Strahan, Lynne, c1982

Monash Biographical Dictionary of 20th Century Australia, Arnold, John and Morris, Deirdre, 1994

### Resource

Victorian Women's Roll of Honour: Women Shaping the Nation, 2001,  
<https://herplacemuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2001-Honour-Roll-Booklet.pdf>

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

### Book

A guide to the care of the young child, infant and pre-school ages: for students of infant welfare, Brown, Vera Scantlebury, 1947

150 years, 150 stories: brief biographies of one hundred and fifty remarkable people associated with the University of Melbourne, Flesch, Juliet and McPhee, Peter, 2003

### 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>

### Resource Section

Campbell, Dame Kate Isabel, McCalman, Janet, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A170180b.htm>

## Archival resources

### The University of Melbourne Archives

[The Half Open Door](#)

[Scantlebury Brown, Vera \(1889-1956\)](#)

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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