

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0111

## Sanger, Ruth Anne

(1918 - 2001)

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**Born** 18 June, 1918, Southport Queensland Australia

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**Died** 5 June, 2001

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**Occupation** Author, Haematologist

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### Summary

Dr Ruth Sanger was an internationally known expert in blood grouping, who for many years worked for the Medical Research Council in London.

Ruth Sanger, the daughter of Hubert and Katharine Mary Ross (née Cameron) Sanger, obtained her Science Degree from Sydney of University in 1940. She then worked in the blood-grouping laboratory of the Sydney Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. After the Second World War Sanger moved to London and worked for Dr Robert Race, her future husband, at the Medical Research Council. In 1950 she co-wrote *Blood Groups in Man*, with her husband and they released their sixth and final edition in 1975. Dr Sanger also contributed papers to medical and genetic journals. She was admitted as a fellow of Britain's Royal Society in 1972 and in the same year she was a joint recipient of the Gairdner Foundation Award. In 1983 Dr Sanger retired as director of the British Medical Research Council, a position she had held for ten years. She was a member of the International Society of Blood Transfusion and an affiliate of similar groups in Canada, Germany, Mexico and Norway. The British Blood Transfusion Society has established the Race and Sanger Award.

### Events

#### 1938 - 1938

Vice-captain of the basketball team

#### 1940 - 1940

Worked with the Science Research School in the Department of Zoology at the University of Sydney

#### 1940 - 1946

On the scientific staff of the New South Wales Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service

#### 1946 - 1946

Travelled to London to work with Dr R Race, director of Medical Research Council's Blood Group Unit

#### 1949 - 1949

Returned to Sydney and worked with the Blood Transfusion Service

#### 1946 - 1973

Scientific staff member of the Blood Group Unit of the Medical Research Council, London

#### 1973 - 1983

Director of the Blood Group Unit of the Medical Research Council (London)

#### 1972 - 1972

Awarded a Fellow of the Royal Society, London

#### 1990 - 1990

Received Doctor of Medicine (MD (Honoris Causa)) from the Helsinki University



**1991 - 1991**

Awarded a gold medal from the Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion

**1990 - 1990**

The *Ruth Sanger Oration* established by the Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion

**1957 - 1957**

Awarded the Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award (with R Race), United States of America

**1970 - 1970**

Awarded the Philip Levene Award, United States of America

**1972 - 1972**

Awarded the Gairdner Foundation Award, Canada

**1973 - 1973**

Awarded the Oliver Memorial Award for Blood Transfusion from the British Red Cross

**1936 - 1939**

Attended the Women's College within the University of Sydney

**1939 - 1939**

Awarded the Grace Frazer scholarship

**1937 - 1937**

Treasurer of the Women's College dance committee

**1938 - 1938**

Secretary of the Women's College dance committee

**1938 - 1938**

Member of the Students' House committee

**1940 - 1940**

Graduated Bachelor of Science (BSc)

**1948 - 1948**

Awarded her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the University of London

**1938 - 1938**

Awarded Caird scholarship in zoology

**1938 - 1938**

Honorary treasurer of the basketball club

**1936 - 1939**

Played in the inter-Varsity basketball team

**Published resources****Edited Book**

Biographical register : the Women's College within the University of Sydney, Annable, Rosemary, 1995

**Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

**Archival resources****The University of Adelaide Archives**

[Correspondence with Ruth Sanger \(Blood Group Research Unit, Lister Institute\)](#)

**Author Details**

Anne Heywood

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