

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0243

## Tangney, Dorothy Margaret

(1907 - 1985)

<b>Born</b>	13 March, 1907, North Perth Western Australia Australia
<b>Died</b>	3 June, 1985, Wembley Western Australia Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Parliamentarian

### Summary

In the Queen's Birthday list (8 June 1968) Dorothy Tangney became the first Western Australian born woman to be appointed Dames Commander of the British Empire for services to the Western Australia Parliament. She was a senator for Western Australia in the Senate of the Australian Parliament from 1943 until she retired in 1968.

### Details

A former schoolteacher Dorothy Tangney became the first woman member of the Australian Senate. An advocate for health and welfare, she served on the Joint Committee on Social Security 1943-1946 and served as a senator from 1943 until she retired in 1968. Dorothy Tangney featured on the 45c stamp (1973) and the electoral division of Tangney in Western Australia is named after her. Also in 1999 the street, formerly known as Administration Place (Canberra), was changed to Dorothy Tangney Place. In the Queen's Birthday list (8 June 1968) Dorothy Tangney became the first Western Australian born woman to be appointed Dames Commander of the British Empire for services to the Western Australian Parliament.

### Events

**2001 - 2001**  
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

## Published resources

### Book

Reflections : profiles of 150 women who helped make Western Australia's history; Project of the Womens Committee for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of Western Australia, Popham, Daphne; Stokes, K.A.; Lewis, Julie, 1979

No ordinary lives: pioneering women in Australian politics, Jenkins, Cathy, 2008

So Many Firsts: Liberal Women from Enid Lyons to the Turnbull Era, Fitzherbert, Margaret, 2009

### Edited Book

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

Who's Who in Australia 1983, Draper, W. J., 1983

### Resource Section

List of Electoral Divisions Named After Women, Australian Electoral Commission,  
<http://www.aec.gov.au/history/women/women3.htm>

### Journal Article

Commemoration biography of Dorothy Tangney, Lawrence, Carmen, 1991

### Book Section

Dorothy Tangney - biography and reproduction of key parliamentary speech, Watson, Judyth [ed.], 1994

### Thesis

Australia's first woman senator: Dorothy Tangney B.A., Dip. Ed, Wall, Judith, 1962,  
<http://henrietta.liswa.wa.gov.au/search~S1?/Xdorothy+tangney&searchscope=1&Da=&Db=&p=&SORT=D/Xdorothy+tangney&s>

### 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

### National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Papers of Dorothy Margaret Tangney, 1938-1986 \[manuscript\]](#)

[Parliamentarians' questionnaires, 1982-1983 \[manuscript\]](#)

### State Library of Western Australia

[Dame Dorothy Tangney papers](#)

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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