

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person

**Entry ID:** AWE6586

## McKechnie, Shirley Elizabeth

---

**Occupation** Choreographer, Dancer, Educator

---

### Summary

Shirley McKechnie is a dancer, choreographer, and educator. She founded the first tertiary dance course in Australia at Rusden College (Deakin University) in 1975 and has written extensively on dance and dance education. She was a co-founder of the Australian Association for Dance Education (AADE), now Ausdance, has been a professorial fellow at the Victorian College of the Arts, and in 1987 was awarded an Order of Australia.

### Events

#### 2013 - 2013

Appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) 'for distinguished service to the performing arts, particularly dance, to the education and development of dancers and choreographers, and to research.'

#### 2001 - 2001

Awarded a Centenary Medal 'for service to Australian society and the humanities in the study of dance'

#### 1987 - 1987

Awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia 'for service to dance particularly as a teacher'

### Author Details

Nat Grant

**Created** 9 May 2019

**Last modified** 9 May 2019