



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY
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Submission Cover sheet

Inquiry into memorialisation through
public commemoration

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Submission to Inquiry into Memorialisation through Public Commemoration

I appreciate the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry. My interest is that Rosemary Dobson was my godmother.

Since 2012 there has been an area in Garema Place designated as Poet's Corner. Three well known Canberra poets are commemorated: Judith Wright, A.D. Hope and David Campbell. Ms Dobson was a colleague and friend of each of these poets. I have always found it rather odd that she was not included in this important grouping. Her inclusion would even the numbers between male and females.

Ms Dobson published her first book of poems when she was 14. She continued publishing until her death. Ms Dobson was included in Angus and Robertson's annual anthology of poetry from 1941 to 1973, apart from two years. This made her the most regularly included female poet by Angus and Robertson.

Ms Dobson has also been included in every major Australian poetry anthology published between 1946 and 2015.

She moved to Canberra, with her family, in 1971 and was a big supporter of Canberra, and she took part in many cultural activities in the ACT. She often launched books, opened visual arts exhibitions and was involved in most events that involved poetry. Ms Dobson regularly supported and was a mentor to many young poets. She knew how difficult it was them to have their poetry published and to be recognised for their work.

Ms Dobson published over 20 volumes of poetry. She received many awards. She was made an AO in 1987. In 1984 she won the Patrick White Award.

I believe Ms Rosemary Dobson is a worthy inclusion in Poet's Corner in Garema Place.

Meredith Hinchliffe AM

March 16, 2022