



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY  
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA

## **Submission Cover sheet**

**Inquiry into the future of the working week**

Submission number: 006

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The Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality  
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Canberra City ACT 2601  
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**Subject: Inquiry into memorialisation through public commemoration**

**New inquiry into statues in the ACT**

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to express support for a bust of the celebrated Canberra poet Rosemary Dobson to join the existing statues of AD Hope, David Campbell and Judith Wright commemorated in 'Poets Corner' in Garema Place.

It would be entirely just and appropriate for such to occur, on the basis of Rosemary Dobson's status as a poet equal in importance to the other three, and given her history as an active and supportive member of Canberra's writing community for four decades from 1971 to her death in 2012. (See list of her awards, below.)

Rosemary was a friend and colleague of Hope, Campbell and Wright, often collaborating with them (doing some celebrated translations of Russian poets with David Campbell, for instance). With them she made Canberra a vital powerhouse of the Australian poetry scene. Rosemary left a rich literary legacy for Canberra, both via her writing, and her mentorship and encouragement of other writers -- attending readings by other, younger Canberra poets well into her 80s. (I personally remember seeing her at many readings from about 2000 to 2010, and enjoyed the privilege of talking with this gracious lady.) She also played a part in Canberra publishing, as an editor, and working with her husband Alec Bolton to run the celebrated Brindabella Press out of their Deakin home.

Rosemary's representation with the other three poets currently commemorated in Garema Place would be a fine rounding out of matters: giving equal representation of two major Canberra male poets alongside two major female ones. A bust of Rosemary would be such a natural and just fit for that space.

Sincerely, Paul Cliff

(Canberra poet and editor)

**Rosemary Dobson's awards** (ex Wikipedia):

- 1948 Sydney Morning Herald Poetry Prize for *The Ship of Ice*
- 1966 Myer Award II for Australian Poetry for *Cock Crow*
- 1977 Australian National University Honorary Convocation Member
- 1979: Robert Frost Award
- 1984: Patrick White Award
- 1984: Grace Leven Prize for Poetry for Best Volume of Poetry for the Year *The Three Fates & Other Poems*
- 1985: Victorian Premier's Literary Award, Joint Winner for *The Three Fates*
- 1986: Association for the Study of Australian Literature Honorary Life Member

- 1987: Office of the Order of Australia (AO)
- 1996: Australia Council Writer's Emeritus Award
- 1996: University of Sydney Honorary Doctor of Letters
- 2001: The Age Book of the Year, Book of the Year and Poetry Awards for *Untold Lives & Later Poems*
- 2006: NSW Alice Award
- 2006: The NSW Premier's Literary Awards, Special Award

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