



**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 memorialisation through  
public commemoration

Submission number: 009

Date authorised for publication: 08 March 2022

The Committee Secretary Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality  
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14 February 2022

**Rosemary Dobson to be included in Poet's Corner, Garema Place**

I was Rosemary Dobson's assistant for around fifteen years until her death. I am writing in support of the proposal to add her to the cluster of poets represented in Poet's Corner. Dobson, who died in June 2012, was still alive (but only just) when Poet's Corner was established.

Rosemary Dobson not only resided in Canberra, but actively contributed to Canberra's literary culture. She published her own excellent poetry to great acclaim, but also mentored and nurtured younger poets, and supported all public Canberra poetry events. I learned so much about Australia's literary community while working with her because she maintained strong connections with many writers locally and around the country; her history in that community was deep and powerful, with her first book published at the age of 14.

When she died, she was seen by the Australian media as the last survivor of an extraordinary generation of poets, and most of them are now statues in Poet's Corner. She was good friends with all three poets, but particularly with David Campbell. Her "Twelve Poems for David Campbell", which mourns his untimely passing, can be found in her *Collected Poems* (UQP, 2012, still in print). Her addition to the group is logical; they WERE Canberra's classical poets, they were well known as a peer group, and without her, the group is incomplete. It's a no-brainer. There is room for her to be there, and it is time to place her where she belongs.

Yours sincerely,

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