



Valé Judith Cornell

1940-2014

Judith is a distinguished perioperative nurse, educator and administrator who made a significant contribution to advancing perioperative nursing in Australia.

Judith was a graduate of St George Hospital, Kogarah and then completed a midwifery certificate in Brisbane. On returning to Canterbury Hospital Judith entered the perioperative environment rising to senior clinician and teaching positions. From 1978 till 1985 Judith was the Assistant Director of Nursing Operating Theatres, Westmead Hospital in Sydney. She then became the Executive Director of the NSW College of Nursing. She was a past President of the Royal College of Nursing, Australia, and in later years became the Honorary Archivist for NSW College of Nursing and the Australian College of Nursing.

Judith was also a key figure with the NSW Operating Room Nurses (OTA) and was honoured with Life memberships in 1987. Judith held the position of NSW OTA President in 1979-1980 and 1986- 1987. She was a past the editor of the OTA Forceps magazine and in 2007 wrote the NSW OTA history.

Judith was one of ten operating room nurses who met in 1975 to plan the inaugural Australasian Conference of Operating Room Nurses in 1977 in Canberra. Judith became the chairperson of the conference committee that led to the birth of the Australian Confederation of Operating Room Nurses (ACORN).

In 1980 and Judith Cornell was nominated as the ACORN representative to the Standards Australia committee on gauze and pack counts. When the Confederation became a College in 2000 a biennial oration was named for Judith and she delivered the first address at the 2002 ACORN Conference in Melbourne. Judith's address provided an overview of ACORN and its influence over the previous 25 years.

Her significant contribution to nursing and education was acknowledged in 1995 when she was made a Member the Order of Australian in recognition of service to nursing, particularly to the quality of nursing practice and education. Additionally Judith received the Distinguished Nursing Service Award from the Institute of Nursing Administrators (NSW&ACT) and the Gold Medal of the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS).

The NSW OTA honoured the memory on Judith by saying;

The world of perioperative nursing has lost one of its shining stars. Judith Cornell was a role model who inspired so many of us to become perioperative nurses; an advocate for both nurses and patients and even in retirement continued to dedicate herself to supporting the profession.

Carolyn William FACORN

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