



**Mental Health
Australia**

Grace Groom Memorial Oration

In November 2006 the then Mental Health Council of Australia (now Mental Health Australia) agreed to establish a Grace Groom Memorial to pay tribute to the former Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Council, and to extend the debate on mental health in Australia. Ms Grace Groom became Chief Executive Officer of the MHCA on July 15 2002 and left the Council in early 2005. She sadly passed away in 2006. Her knowledge, energy and enthusiasm gained the respect of all those involved in mental health reform. She had a capacity to marry strong strategic understanding with an appreciation of the practical issues involved in reform for health professionals, consumers, and carers.



The late Grace Groom, CEO Mental Health Council of Australia 2002-2005.

Before joining the Council, Grace held the position of National Primary Mental Health Coordinator with the Australian Divisions of General Practice Network and prior to that she was Director of the Queensland Divisions of General Practice Mental Health Support Strategy. She was the driving force behind Queensland Health's General Practitioners and Psychiatry Partnerships Project; a key player in the development of the National Primary Mental Health Care Initiative, and the Federal Budget measure 'Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care'. Grace Groom left an outstanding legacy and her contribution to mental health reform in Australia has been recognised by an annual Grace Groom Memorial Oration for more than 10 years now, organised by Mental Health Australia since June 2007.

Grace Groom Memorial Orators

2007 – Professor Ian Hickie AM
2008 – The Hon Nicola Roxon MP
2009 – Professor Geoff Gallop AC
2010 – Professor Pat McGorry AO
2011 – Craig Hamilton
2012 – Jessica Rowe AM
2013 – Jennifer Westacott
2014 – Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO

2015 – Professor Mike Slade
2016 – The Hon Jeff Kennett AC
2017 – The Hon Greg Hunt MP
2018 – Tracey Spicer OAM
2019 – Dr Stephen King
2020 – Dr Brendan Murphy
2021 – The Hon Julia Gillard AC
2022 – Noel Pearson

Groom Memorial Scholarship

The Grace Groom Memorial Scholarship is a donation by Mental Health Australia in memory of former CEO, the late Grace Groom. The purpose of the Scholarship is to provide financial support to international or domestic postgraduate students enrolled in study and research relating to mental health issues.