



**School of Nursing
and Midwifery**

25th
Anniversary
1991 – 2016

History of Nursing at ECU

Edith Cowan University's origins stretch back to 1902 with the opening of Claremont Teachers' College; the first in Western Australia. In 1982, this merged with three other colleges to become the multi-campus Western Australian College of Advanced Education (WACAE). Awarded university status in 1991, ECU has since developed innovative and practical courses across a wide range of disciplines, established a vibrant research culture and attracted a growing range of quality research partners and researchers, many working at the cutting edge of their fields, both nationally and internationally.

Edith Cowan University is the only Australian university to be named in honour of a woman. In 1921 Edith Dircksey Cowan was the first female member to be admitted to an Australian parliament. She worked tirelessly for improvements in the social conditions experienced by women, children, families, the poor, the under-educated and the elderly. She also promoted migrant welfare, sex education in schools, and the formation of infant health centres. In 1920 Edith Cowan was awarded an OBE in recognition of her work during

the First World War, her most significant achievement as a parliamentarian was her contribution to the passing of the Women's Legal Status Bill, which became an Act in 1923. The Act opened legal and other professions to Western Australian women for the first time.

The University is a multi-campus institution with three metropolitan campuses at Mount Lawley and Joondalup and a regional campus in Bunbury, 200 km south of Perth.

The School of Nursing was originally established in 1985 on the Nedlands Campus of WACAE, moving to Churchlands in October 1988. With seven staff members including academic and support staff, the first intake of students enrolled in a Diploma of Nursing which ran over 3.5 years. They were housed at the Nedlands Campus of WACAE and most of their practicum was based at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. By 1986 another 13 new academic staff had been recruited. In 1991, the WACAE attained university status. The ECU Churchlands campus graduated around 300 nurses each year. In December 2007 the School moved to its current home

on the Joondalup Campus, which by then had evolved into the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Postgraduate Medicine. Following the separation of postgraduate medicine and paramedicine in August 2011, the School of Nursing and Midwifery was established and is the largest (and we believe the best) undergraduate nursing program in Western Australia.

Today our state-of-the-art facilities on the Joondalup and South West Campuses incorporate world class demonstration wards and simulation capacity. Teaching and support satisfaction scores from students rank ECU in the Top 5 universities in Australia based on 2015 QILT data. Our academic staff have strong clinical backgrounds and teaching experience to help students apply theory to clinical situations, preparing them for successful careers in nursing and midwifery.

Our strong relationships, established and maintained over many years with a large number of quality health care providers throughout WA, provide students with a very broad range of clinical settings in which to learn the skills necessary for safe, evidence-based practice.

Comprising of over 2000 students (equating to over 1,600 EFTSL) over both campuses, supported by 75 core academic and professional staff, the School of Nursing and Midwifery is primarily centred on the Bachelor of Science (Nursing) Degree, with 89% of student numbers enrolled in this course (based on 2016 data). The second discipline focus for the School is midwifery, with entry being highly competitive.

Our research performance is strong and in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2015 our school (four digit FOR code Nursing 1110) was ranked at a five, well above world standard. This is the highest possible score and maintains the 5 we achieved in the previous evaluation in 2012.

Churchlands Nursing Building

ECU's Joondalup Campus today

Margaret Baird

Inaugural Head of School, September 1984 – December 1991

"As Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) state president at the time, I was heavily involved in discussions with federal and state governments to facilitate the transition of Registered nurse training from hospital to tertiary settings. Once the decision was finally handed down by the federal government (via telegram) it was left to each state to implement the transition. With my background in the negotiations, as ANF president and as a member of the Nurses Board, I was interviewed and appointed by the Western Australian College of Advanced Education to carry out the task of establishing the new School of Nursing in Nedlands.

With the subsequent recruitment and appointment of a professional team of staff, we were able to write a



comprehensive curriculum and produce a science-based program. Over the next few years we expanded and had a new building built on the Churchlands campus to accommodate our growth. We continued to employ some outstanding staff who, with their expertise and extensive knowledge, kept the program fresh and current. Within just four years we had established an Honours program and soon after, a research stream was introduced.

I was involved in the preparations and transition from WACAE to University status. I have some happy memories of those early years and the people I worked with. Even though times were sometimes tough, we managed to have good times together and I made some lifelong friendships along the way."

Highlights and Achievements:

- Facilitate the transition of Registered Nurse training from hospital to tertiary settings
- Implementation of a comprehensive and innovative curriculum
- Building of state-of-the-art building at Churchlands campus



In Touch New image but nursing still a caring profession

WITH the gradual removal over the decades of the education of nurses from hospitals to tertiary institutions, the image of the profession has undergone a profound change.

While some traditionalists will insist that the image of nursing is still that of a caring profession, the reality is that the image of nursing has changed. The image of nursing is now that of a caring profession, but one that is also a science-based profession. The image of nursing is now that of a caring profession, but one that is also a science-based profession.



COLLEGE CONTACT

School of Nursing Set to Start

"It's like challenges," said Miss Baird, and this one has certainly been great!

The School of Nursing will begin its first year in the new building on the Churchlands campus in September. A staff of twelve, under the direction of Miss Margaret Baird, will begin teaching the three-year Diploma of Nursing. Additional staff will be recruited each semester.

BACKGROUND

Margaret Baird was born in Glenelg, attended Presentation Convent where she completed her schooling at Northern High School. She trained initially as a stenographer and worked as secretary to the Hon. Frank Street Clerk.

"I have realised," she said, "that I wanted more in life and turned to nursing. I attended the Government School of Nursing in the beautiful double-story building in Glenelg."

Since that time Margaret Baird has worked continuously in the nursing profession as both practitioner and educational administrator. She was appointed Head of the School of Nursing early this year.

DEVELOPMENTS

"For students entering nursing now, the image is a caring profession. The student is a person who is responsible for the care of the patient. The student is a person who is responsible for the care of the patient. The student is a person who is responsible for the care of the patient."

At first there will be no emphasis on the science-based aspect of the program. The science-based aspect of the program will be introduced in the second year.

Professor Anne McMurray

Head of School, January 1992 – April 1994, then becoming ECU Foundation Professor in Nursing

"I was proud to be Head of School at Edith Cowan as we moved from the CAE to University status, and thrilled to be asked to comper the lovely celebration we had to mark the moment we became Edith Cowan University. My time at the University and in the School was a defining moment in my career. The school was dynamic and the enthusiasm of the staff made it a pleasure to work there.



one another, with those of us who were Heads of School working cooperatively, collaborating on curriculum development and organisational development. I have only fond memories of ECU. Congratulations to all on this important occasion!"

Highlights and Achievements:

- Transitioning to University status
- Rolling out the new building for nursing, which was state-of-the-art for its time
- Developing a range of postgraduate studies and appointing high level staff to guide the courses and research studies
- Expansion of clinical industry partners to carefully plan and strengthen the clinical elements of the programs

We shared a great sense of building something new and different from the ground up, and we took enormous pride in our facilities and networks with clinical agencies that were so important to achieving our goals. We learned much from



Memories

**School of Nursing
developed at Nedlands**

1985



- Enrolled first students
- Bunbury program started
- Construction begins on Nursing Building at Churchlands Campus

1986



- First accreditation
- Relocated to Churchlands Campus
- Dr Ruth McKay's joint Professor of Nursing appointment with SCGH

1987

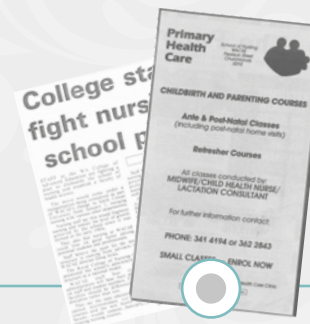


1988

**First
graduating
class**

- WACAE becomes ECU
- School restructured
- Reaccreditation
- First ECU affiliated publication

1991



1990

Demonstration
wards at
Churchlands
Campus

- Primary Health Clinic established at Churchlands
- Honours Course developed
- ANRAC Competencies adopted

SONIA IT system
introduced
for allocating
Clinical
Placements

2000

1994

- ECU Foundation Professor of Nursing appointed Professor Anne McMurray
- Nurses Board Comprehensive Registration



1995

- Extension of course at Bunbury
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing commences
- 10 year School of Nursing Celebration

First Hands
on Training
(HoT)
Program



1996

2005

Construction begins
on building at
Joondalup Campus



2010

- Dual Degree: Bachelor of Science (Nursing) / Bachelor of Science (Midwifery) accepts first students

2008

- School of Nursing, Midwifery and Postgraduate Medicine opens at Joondalup Campus

2006



**First International
Clinical Placement
to Thailand**

2003



2016

**School of Nursing and
Midwifery Staff**



Dr Bronwyn Jones

Head of School, April 1994 – December 2003

"As Head of School I had the good fortune to work with some very talented, enthusiastic and hardworking staff – academic, technical and administrative. No one can establish and manage an enterprise such



as a University School/Department or Faculty alone, I was very well supported both within the School and from senior colleagues and members of the University community. Changes in Faculty structure and amalgamation of Schools within Faculties, resulted in the cooperative development of new health-related awards to which nurse academics were able to contribute to, and provided other opportunities for postgraduate nursing students.

I have happy memories of this stage of my nursing career and I'm so thankful to have participated to make my contribution to the next generation of nurse researchers, teachers, clinicians and administrators."

Highlights and Achievements

- Established the first jointly funded Clinical Chair at ECU – Professor of Mental Health Nursing – the position assisting the support of our newly developed Mental Health Nursing program
- Instituted Postgraduate Diplomas in Clinical Specialties (e.g. ICU, OT, Oncology and Palliative Care) as the first year of a Masters program
- Negotiated a number of agreements to teach students in a variety of countries abroad
- Successfully developed and launched a midwifery program



Professor Kate White

Head of School, January 2004 – May 2005

"There were many achievements during my period at ECU that I was very proud to have contributed to. These are a reflection of the work and commitment of a wonderful team of academic and professional colleagues within the School, and Faculty. Some of the highlights include: the establishment of Teaching Scholars, recognising the valuable role of experienced clinical nurses in contributing to specialist postgraduate education; the Midwifery Exhibition that challenged midwifery students to examine areas of midwifery practice; and the student-led health promotion community partnerships.



Heads of School, the Executive Dean of the Faculty and the staff within the Executive Unit is a significant highlight that reflects significantly on the leadership and culture within ECU. In Universities academic outcomes are the key measure of success. Yet these cannot be achieved without a skilled and committed professional staff. A highlight for me was working with the professional staff in all areas within the School including clinical labs, student's administration and clinical placements, they all brought an energy and commitment to the work involved."

Highlights and Achievements:

- Re-establishing the financial viability of the Nursing Program at ECU
- Expanding the specialist postgraduate nursing programs
- Sustained improvement in teaching evaluation
- Increase in Category 1 research income

There are many highlights both professionally and personally. The support from colleagues within the School, fellow



Professor Cobie Rudd

Head of School, June 2005 – June 2009

"I warmly remember my time as Head of School (then the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Postgraduate Medicine) from 2005 to 2009, as a very special chapter in my career. When I commenced in the role, as a team, we focussed on building our capacity and nurturing both a positive and entrepreneurial culture. This delivered a range of new initiatives with strong results that are sustained to this day. In that role, working with the School and the broader ECU community, we were able to launch a range of unique ventures."



Highlights and Achievements:

- Partnerships Programs for clinical placements
- ECU Health Centre and ECU Health Simulation Centre
- Enrolled Nurse Pathway to Registration Program
- Hands on Training (HoT) program for secondary school students to gain insights into health careers
- Systems and Intervention Research Centre for Health



Professor Di Twigg

Head of School, July 2009 – December 2015, Dean of School from January 2016

"As Head of School since July 2009 and now Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery I am very cognizant of the legacy established by my predecessors from the establishment of the school in 1985. The School is well-recognised for its teaching and learning innovation, it's strong and collaborative relationships with health care partners, its research productivity and the engagement of clinicians in that journey."



This legacy is recognised by our 2015 graduates from Nursing and Midwifery courses rating the Quality of Teaching at 89.2% and overall quality of the educational experience at 85.9% placing us in the top three Australian Universities for teaching quality and in the top six for overall quality of educational experience (The Student Experience Questionnaire, 2015).

In addition, our research is consistently rated as "well above world standard" (Excellence for Research in Australia) and our internationally recognised programs of research in the fields of chronic disease management, child and family health, workforce and health services are driven by real life health care needs. Our Field-Weighted Citation Impact which takes into account the differences in research behaviour across disciplines is 2.1 for nursing and 1.04 for Midwifery.

A Field-Weighted Citation Impact of 1.00 indicates that the publications have been cited at world average for similar publications. A Field-Weighted Citation Impact of greater than 1.00 indicates that the publications have been cited more than would be expected based on the world average placing the impact of our research above word average.

The innovation in course delivery, such as the flipped classroom providing interactive learning opportunities as opposed to the didactic lecture, and the use of virtual world scenario, continue the legacy of innovation. None of this is possible without dynamic and innovative academic and professional staff committed to improving the learning outcomes of our students, contributing to the evidence of our disciplines and enjoying the journey along the way."



"As you can see from our brief history of nursing and midwifery, much has been achieved over the last 31 years. None of this would have been possible without the ongoing support from our health industry partners in the journey. Thank you for joining with us in the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Edith Cowan University."

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GREENING ECU: Edith Cowan University is committed to reducing the environmental impact associated with its operations by conducting its activities in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. This includes implementing strategies and technologies that minimise waste of resources and demonstrate environmentally sensitive development, innovation and continuous improvement.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of production. The information is subject to change from time to time and the University reserves the right to add, vary or discontinue courses and impose limitations on enrolment in any course. The publication constitutes an expression of intent and is not to be taken as a firm offer or understanding.

ECU IS SMOKE-FREE

