

20<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### Public Acknowledgment of Dorothy 'Joan' Durdin AM OAM

It is with deep respect and gratitude that we acknowledge the extraordinary life and contributions of Dorothy 'Joan' Durdin AM OAM, who dedicated her entire career to nursing and, in particular, nursing education. Joan's unwavering commitment to the profession, her pioneering spirit, and her passion for preserving and sharing the history of nursing in South Australia have left an indelible mark on the field.

Born on 16 May 1922, Joan embarked on a lifelong journey of service, excellence, and education in nursing. Her tireless efforts to advance nursing education were recognised at the highest levels, earning her the esteemed titles of Member of the Order of Australia (AM) and the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). These honours reflect her profound impact on the profession, inspiring generations of nurses to strive for excellence and continuous learning.

Joan played a pivotal role in shaping nursing education in South Australia, advocating for curriculum development, mentoring future nurse educators, and pioneering new teaching methodologies that enhanced both theoretical and practical learning. She was instrumental in the transition of nursing education from hospital-based training to tertiary education, ensuring that nurses received comprehensive academic and clinical preparation. Her leadership in the establishment of structured training programs set a benchmark for nursing education nationwide.

Joan's love for nursing history was unparalleled. Through her extensive research and numerous historical publications, she meticulously documented the evolution of nursing in South Australia, ensuring that the rich heritage of the profession was preserved for future generations. Her writings serve as invaluable resources, offering insights into the challenges, achievements, and enduring spirit of those who shaped the nursing profession.

**Vale Dorothy 'Joan' Durdin  
16.5.1922-12.2.2025.**

As we mourn her passing on 12 February, we also celebrate a life lived with purpose, dedication, and an unrelenting passion for nursing. Her legacy will continue to guide and inspire us at the Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre and across the broader nursing community.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Joan's family, friends, and colleagues. Her contributions will never be forgotten, and her influence will be felt for many years to come.

With heartfelt gratitude and respect,



Dr Rosemary Bryant AO

Chair, Rosemary Bryant Steering Committee  
Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre, University of South Australia,