

# Women's Australian National Service

June 1940 –

## Details

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Women's Australian National Service was an organisation of women that was established during World War II to provide assistance and training on the home front. It had chapters in Sydney and Newcastle, and nationally, most notably in Western Australia.

The Women's Australian National Service was founded by Lady Margaret Loder Wakehurst (1899-1994) in June 1940, at a conference. She was its president and commander-in-chief. Lady Wakehurst was the popular wife of John de Vere Loder Wakehurst, the Governor General of New South Wales from 1937 until 1946. Mrs L O'Malley Wood was treasurer and Mrs WH Read was chair.

The Western Australian branch of the Women's Australian National Service established Wanslea in Perth, which is now Wanslea Family and Child Services. The New South Wales branches founded a sister organisation, Wanslea, in Bexley in the south-western suburbs of Sydney, in 1945.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Wanslea \(1945 - 1946\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Wanslea \(1947 - 1984\)](#)

### Resources

- Dietrich, June, [Women's Australian National Service \(WANS\) in Wagga Wagga](#), Archives Outside, 11 March 2010

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