

Jenny studied Occupational Therapy at the WA Institute of Technology from 1970 to 1972.

Jenny has been described as the most enthusiastic, energetic, empowering, proactive, innovative, and pioneering Occupational Therapist. Her contribution to the Western Australian OT profession is immeasurable, as is her commitment to empowering and supporting people in their senior years. Jenny was mentored and inspired by some of Australia's most respected OT Pioneers, Freda Jacob and Elaine Wilson who both deeply believed the sun shone out of all of their new graduate OTs. Her mentors instilled a sense of creativity, team work, endless possibility, and a commitment to always giving back to the profession, which this nominee has done extensively.

Jenny has consulted across Australia and is well regarded internationally for her work in Elder care. She has innovated with functional assessment tools, environmental and equipment design, cutting edge therapies and community capacity building. She has worked extensively across WA to improve the health services to the rural aged community whether they be people with Dementia, Parkinson's or Huntington's Disease or ageing patients with mental health conditions. She is sought after for her functional cognitive assessment capacities and ability to inform differential diagnosis. She has had input to Federal Government aged care policies and continues to be sought after to shape Mental Health Care service possibilities across Western Australia, most currently in the Mid West.

In the early 1990's she was the first occupational therapist at the newly constructed Brightwater Village. She participated in the design of the village which replaced a 70-bed ward environment for ambulant residents with dementia. The new Village provided 5 houses of eight bedrooms each with an ensuite bathroom, open plan living and an outdoor area where residents could roam about freely in a neighbourhood designed yard. She was instrumental in developing a Sensory Assessment tool and programs including the development of a Snoezelen room, sensory gardens, and doll therapy for residents with Dementia in the village. These program and design innovations were presented and celebrated internationally, and she continues to be sought after for sensory garden design.

Jenny is always thinking 'outside the box' in her innovation, planning and implementation of ideas and activities to engage the residents. These include:

- Planning monthly Village music and dance nights for the residents and families, and ensured music was therapeutically tailored to the different preferences in the village.
- Establishing weekly family meals where staff, residents, and families would prepare and enjoy together, enabling past rituals, sensory immersion and cultural priorities be celebrated
- Organising weekly religious activities with leaders of different religions eager to participate and take their turn to run a service;
- Initiating "pet therapy" and buying a lamb, puppy and chooks to wander around in the yard and interact with the residents; enabling them to participate in past roles that were highly meaningful across their lives.

In 1997 the nominee and some colleagues were funded by ACAT to tour all around Western Australia providing education on Excellence in Aged Care. Her focus was presenting different ideas for 'engaging the elderly.'

As an occupational therapist, Jenny is innovative and creative in her programme planning as has been demonstrated with her development of sensory gardens and interactive "reminiscence"

outdoor spaces for patients with Dementia at a residential care facility in Narrogin. Jenny is passionate about providing the elderly population with excellence in care. She strives to prevent premature or inappropriate admittance to aged care and has been instrumental in providing Occupational Therapy services across the Upper and Lower Great Southern.

In 2018 she organised the “*Senior Olympics in Narrogin*”, inspired by the Invictus games, in which Waratah Lodge and Karinya Aged Hostel faced off against each other. This was a tremendous success and the nominee’s attitude was: “These people have done all that the people in the Invictus Games have, they’ve faced every sort of hardship in life and survived. I think they need to celebrate their resilience and community sense, superheroes, that is them. I want them showing that off and celebrating it.” One friend (not an OT, a work colleague) said that she was an “outstanding ambassador for her profession and peerless in her contribution to the improvement of rural aged care health services. She has demonstrated that working in integrated partnerships within the health care team, turning scarcity of possibilities into an abundance of possibilities in a rural health community”.

Jenny has collaborated in developing a manual of care for older people with dementia and other mental health conditions which has been workshopped throughout the southern part of WA. A training manual was developed and delivered by her and the other team members.

Jenny continues to work tirelessly, currently as an OT part time at Karinya Aged Hostel in Narrogin and on a project to “Develop a Model of Care in Mental Health Services for Older people in the Wheatbelt”. In keeping with health care over time, she now serves families within the NDIS and is sought after across the state. This nominee has fully embodied the teachings of her mentors and strives to inspire the youth of OT. She truly believes in her students and has inspired many to continue to serve the Elder population, with some students going on to doctorate research in this area and become international leaders in their own right. Outside of OT she is dedicated to her family and friends. She always makes time to care for those she loves and continues to volunteer in community sport, fundraising efforts and sharing of food and music. Jenny is an innovator, an advocate, a leader, a team player, loyal to her aged care community and a great friend and is deserving of recognition as an outstanding member of the Occupational Therapy profession. We congratulate and celebrate all her wonderful achievements on behalf of all the people whose lives she has enriched.