

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY

This award recognises staff and alumni of the University whose contributions to the economic, cultural, scientific or social development of Australia or the international community has demonstrated distinguished service of a high degree.

Ms Ailsa Korten

Ailsa Korten worked at the ANU for nearly 20 years until her death in late 2005. While at the Centre for Mental Health Research, Ms Korten made a major contribution to the field of psychiatric epidemiology in Australia and internationally. She was ranked in the top 1% of most cited researchers in psychiatry over the past decade.

Ms Korten was a gifted epidemiologist and statistician, who contributed to a number of studies that are today recognized internationally as ground breaking in her field. She was involved in a number of cutting-edge projects, including work on the prevalence of Alzheimer's Disease and depression. She was indispensable in the development of the Canberra Longitudinal Study of the Elderly, which was the Centre's major research project during the 1990s.

Ms Korten also undertook a number of important national scientific roles during her time at the ANU. These include assisting with the analysis of the Commonwealth Government's National Survey of Mental Health and Well-Being in 1997-98, which was the first national survey of mental disorders in Australia. She was also, for many years, the ACT representative of the Australian Society for Psychiatric Research.

This Award commemorates Ms Korten's outstanding record of achievement as a scholar and her contributions to the understanding of mental health disorders in Australia.

*Citation read on 14 December 2006, on presentation of the award.
(Awarded posthumously - accepted by Ms Jeannette Korten).*