



# HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

## Dr Eva Popper



**The first woman doctor to undergo formal training in obstetrics and gynaecology in Queensland.**

Eva graduated from the University of Queensland in 1957 and after two years as a resident medical officer at Brisbane Hospital, Dr Popper was appointed a teaching registrar in obstetrics and gynaecology in 1960. Following two years in this post she was admitted as a member of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

In 1964 she conducted an antenatal clinic at Moorooka and 1966 she became a visiting obstetrician to the Hospital and remained a keen staff member until 2011.

In 1967 the first intrauterine transfusion in Queensland was conducted by Dr Ken Wilson and subsequently a team of three specialists, Drs Eva Popper, David Cooper and Bobbie Bevan – were responsible for this work in Queensland. Eva's particular interest was in the Rhesus factor problem.

In 1973 she became a visiting gynaecologist to the Hospital.

**Proper Popper Products was the nickname given to the babies' Dr Popper was responsible for. She delivered over 5,000 babies in her career and remains friends with many mothers.**

In the 1960's obstetrics and gynaecology was a male dominated field and, in an interview conducted with Eva in July 2018 she believed she gained her position by default since two male members of the Board were away at the time. She also remembers having to deal with at least a dozen incomplete miscarriages each morning – the introduction of the pill was only just beginning.

Eva also remembered a particular theatre sister, Anne Isbester, would always clear theatre for a caesarean whenever she called for it. Also, when she did have a particular issue, her Hospital Superintendent, Dr Wilson, would support her and she also learnt a lot from Dr Richard Drake, who was also a visiting obstetrician from 1959 to 1981. On a personal note, Eva had just become a Great Godmother.

Sadly Eva passed away in March 2019 but she will always be known at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital as the doctor who brought over 5,000 Proper Popper Products into the world.

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