

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN ORTHOPTICS

In February, 1991, the appointment was announced of Elaine Cornell, DOBA Dip App Sc (Cumb) MA (Macq), to the newly created position of Associate Professor of Orthoptics at Cumberland College of Health Sciences, The University of Sydney.

Her achievement in gaining this selection has brought credit not only to herself but to the profession in Australia.

Born and educated in Australia, Elaine was awarded the John Pockley prize, for the top student in NSW and Victoria, on completing her orthoptic studies in Victoria in 1964.

Her clinical experience in Australia and overseas has been wide and academically she has had a long association with both the Victorian School of Orthoptics, including Head of School 1970-74, and with Cumberland College of Health Sciences. At CCHS she was first appointed lecturer in the School of Orthoptics in 1977 and became a Senior lecturer in 1990. The 9 months spent on secondment to the Community Relations Division to develop the Alumni Branch gave her broader administrative and communication experience within the College.

She has been closely involved in assisting the development of the orthoptic student training and conversion courses as the course was upgraded by stages first to an Associate Diploma (1976), then to a Diploma of Applied Sciences (1981) and finally to a Bachelor of Applied Science (Orthoptics) with an Honours programme. She has also been involved in Continuing Education and Post-graduate Education programmes for both Orthoptics and other professions.

During this time she has published extensively and obtained grants for a number of research projects. She has presented many papers at professional conferences conducted by the OAA, IOA and RACO, including her presentation as the OAA invited lecturer for the Patricia Lance Lecture in 1988. Her special interest has been in neuro-ophthalmology.

In more recent years Elaine has been a member of a select team from CCHS conducting work-

(iv)



shops in Singapore, Indonesia and Fiji and in 1990 was the WHO consultant to Beijing on visual disability rehabilitation.

Such activities clearly demonstrate her academic leadership in teaching and research programmes. Her new academic status has also led to her appointment as Head of the School of Orthoptics at CCHS.

As a member of the Orthoptic Association of Australia Elaine has contributed to our professional body in many capacities including that of Honorary Treasurer, Editor and State and School representative. Currently she is President of the OAA, NSW Branch, and a NSW State representative on the OAA Council and Orthoptic Board of Australia.

The Association is indeed proud of her appointment to a level which is of similar standing to only 2 other such appointments overseas, both in the USA, and which is certainly a first in Australia.

Margaret Doyle