

**Philip Thompson**  
**1937 – 2022**



After more than 50 years in the field of plastic surgery, in 2018 Dr Thompson was made a member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to medicine as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon, to health initiatives in South-East Asia and to professional organisations.

After graduating in 1960 he worked at Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney and in the UK after marrying Maureen a day shy of his 30th birthday.

He enjoyed the stint despite London's setbacks. "The weather was lousy and the food was, too," he said.

He was drawn to reconstructive surgery because he "wanted to put people back together" and devoted a great deal of his career to children at Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children at Camperdown before it relocated to Westmead in 1995. Surgery often involved cleft palate work on babies.

"It's a very privileged life as a surgeon," he said. "You first meet a patient when they're three days old and you end up growing with them through their childhood and adolescence and getting invited to their weddings. After retirement, I don't miss the surgery, but I really miss the patients."

The former Australian Society of Plastic of Surgeons president worked in South-East Asia, including Thailand, where he formed the Khon Kaen University Cleft Palate Craniofacial Deformities Centres in 1994.

Dr Thompson taught and performed surgery in Laos and Indonesia and volunteered some services. He retired in 2011 and two years later earned the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons' NSW Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award.