

AUSTRALIA

Name: **Joan Stuckey**
Date of birth: 1924

Category: Best Woman Inventor

Title of award: WIPO Gold Medal

Occasion of award : 14th International Exhibition of Inventions and New Techniques
Place: Geneva, Switzerland
Date: April 1986

Invention: **“Push Cush” - Pressuredistributingmattressoverlay to reduce pain**

Organizer: Organizing Committee of the International Exhibition of Inventions, Geneva, Switzerland

Other information: The pressuredistributingmattressoverlay is designed for use in hospitals as well as in homes by disabled persons who will have to be immobilized over a long period. Long immobilization (due to illness, burns, accidents, etc.) can result in destruction of flesh caused by compression damage to peripheral blood vessels (increased skin pressure) in the contact area. The design of the new mattress overlay is based on a principle of physics to control air flow and distribute body weight to minimize pressure. The new mattress overlay is relatively inexpensive, compared with water beds and electrically operated ripple mattresses, used currently for the same purpose. In addition, it is non -allergic, waterproof, light in weight and simple to install.