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978-0-521-66974-0 - The Labour of Loss: Mourning, Memory and Wartime Bereavement
in Australia

Joy Damousi

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The Labour of Loss

The Labour of Loss explores how mothers, fathers, widows, relatives and friends dealt with their experiences of grief and loss during and after the First and Second World Wars. Based on an examination of private loss through letters and diaries, it makes a significant contribution to understanding how people came to terms with the deaths of friends and family. The book considers the ways in which the bereaved dealt with grief psychologically, and analyses the social and cultural context within which they mourned their dead. Damousi shows that grief remained with people as they attempted to rebuild an internal and external world without those to whom they had been so fundamentally attached. Unlike other studies in this area, *The Labour of Loss* considers how mourning affected men and women in different ways, and analyses the gendered dimensions of grief.

JOY DAMOUSI is a senior lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Melbourne. She is the author of *Women Come Rally: Socialism, Communism and Gender in Australia 1890–1955* (1994); co-editor of *Gender and War: Australians at War in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge University Press, 1995), and author of *Depraved and Disorderly: Female Convicts, Sexuality and Gender in Colonial Australia* (Cambridge University Press, 1997).

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Abbreviations

AA	Australian Archives
AIF	Australian Imperial Force
AFW	Anzac Fellowship of Women
AWM	Australian War Memorial
CIB	Commonwealth Investigation Branch
ML	Mitchell Library, Sydney
NLA	National Library of Australia
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RSA	Returned Soldiers' Association
RSL	Returned and Services League (<i>later</i> Returned Services League)
RSSILA	Returned Soldiers' and Sailors' Imperial League of Australia
SLQ	State Library of Queensland
SLSA	State Library of South Australia
SLV	State Library of Victoria

Currency

During the period discussed in this book, Australian currency was pounds, shillings and pence.

There were 12 pennies (d) in one shilling (s), and 20 shillings in one pound (£). A guinea was 21 shillings. Amounts such as 2s and 2s 6d were sometimes written as 2/- and 2/6.

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