

Joanne Brown

Jo Brown is Manager Health and Wellbeing at Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership (SGGPCP) in Hamilton, western Victoria. SGGPCP works with twenty partner agencies (including local government, large health and small rural health services, bush nursing centres, community service agencies and Aboriginal and community health agencies) across the Southern Grampians and Glenelg shires in south-west Victoria.

Jo has extensive experience in community development and a strong interest in behaviour change and community wellbeing. She has worked in the disability sector, tertiary education, emergency management and community health and holds a degree in arts (disability) and postgraduate qualifications in education.

Jo has a strong social justice philosophy which influenced her initial work in the disability sector, teaching and then managing a continuing education department for adults with an intellectual disability in Melbourne. This led to an interest in staff development and a position teaching in the community services and welfare studies sectors at Northern Metropolitan TAFE in Preston, Melbourne. On return to country Victoria, Jo continued TAFE teaching and began a community development and education role with the Country Fire Authority where she worked closely with communities to prevent loss of life from both house and bushfires.

For the past four years, Jo has worked with SGGPCP with a focus on health promotion and climate change. After leading a demonstration trial around local climate change adaptation in a small rural community, SGGPCP have built strong partnerships with leading climate and health experts including the Victorian Climate Change Centre for Adaptation Research, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, the Climate and Health Alliance, Sustainability Victoria and a number of sustainability networks and research agencies.

Jo lives with her husband and teenage sons in Hamilton, Victoria, where she has settled to enjoy the country life after living and studying in Melbourne.