Susan Furness

Susan Furness is a senior lecturer and Senior Profession Mentor for the Bachelor of Health Science and Master of Paramedic Practice course within the La Trobe Rural Health School, La Trobe University. She also holds the position of Regional Incident Controller for La Trobe University, and is central to the conceptualisation and implementation of university-wide student support and safety programs.

Susan has current and extensive operational and management experience in the area of paramedicine and emergency response, and maintains the qualification of operational Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance Paramedic with Ambulance Victoria. She has a strong interest in mentoring, resilience and professional development for both undergraduate paramedic students and qualified paramedics, and has completed a Masters dissertation exploring paramedic academic perceptions of mentoring.

In addition to her interest in mentoring and paramedic resilience, Susan has commenced research into the use of narrative in paramedicine, and the link between storytelling in the pre-hospital environment and resilience, cultural transference and education. Susan sees the concept of community paramedicine and the development of future-ready rural and regional paramedics of particular importance in Australia, and consistently seeks involvement in projects related to this field.