Suzanne Hodgkin

Dr Suzanne Hodgkin is a senior lecturer in social work and social policy in the La Trobe Rural Health School, La Trobe University, Albury-Wodonga campus. She lectures in social work research, practice skills, and law rights and ethics. Prior to working as an academic, she was a senior manager in the Department of Human Services, Hume Region. Her Masters research explored the problem of recruitment and retention of frontline rural child protection staff in Victoria.

Suzanne graduated with a PhD in social work and social policy in 2006. She has published findings from her doctoral research in several ERA ranked journals, such as *Australian Social Work*, *Australian Feminist Studies* and *Australasian Journal on Ageing*. She has also disseminated findings to several international conferences and was invited as a plenary speaker for the European Social Capital and Social Trust Conference, CINEFOGO network, in Denmark in 2009. She was recently invited to contribute to an international text, *Social Capital: Theory, Measurement, and Outcomes*.

During 2009–2010, Suzanne worked as a member of a major consultancy with the John Richards Initiative on a workforce mapping project into rural public sector aged care services. The design for this research has been published in the *International Journal of Multiple Research Approaches*. Suzanne, considered an expert in mixed methods research, has had her research design work published in the *Journal of Mixed Method Research* and in mixed methods research texts.

Suzanne is currently working on the following funded research projects: population ageing and its effect upon intergenerational care; and an ARC Linkages project that explores the relationship between rural living and wellness for older people. At this conference she is presenting findings from a current project funded by the Department of Health Victoria, which explores the retention of older health care workers in rural Victoria.