Deb Jones

Deb Jones has worked in regional health in clinical, management and academic roles for over 30 years. Deb has worked in a variety of service settings focused on health service and workforce development, education and program evaluation. Deb is a staunch advocate of comprehensive primary health care and the educational and experiential needs required to develop Australia’s future health workforce.

Deb’s work focuses on remodelling health care systems and the role of education institutions in supporting rural and remote communities to address entrenched disparities associated with the social determinants of health and wellbeing.

Deb has led the development of a health career pipeline model that brings together regional youth and urban health science students to create an integrated and sustainable workforce model. This program provided Deb with the foundation for program expansion into the educational pedagogy of service learning. Service learning has enabled health science students from across multiple disciplines to play a critical role in addressing long-term health inequities experienced in the region.

As a comprehensive primary health care advocate, Deb has drawn on these experiences to extend the model beyond the health sector. The result has been the establishment of innovative collaborations across regional community organisations in far-western NSW, higher education institutions and government agencies in the development of cross-sectorial partnerships and programs. These collaborations have been underpinned by community empowerment, leadership and vision, political astuteness, place-based solutions and complex relationships that harness the expertise and resources of each partner. The model seeks to address regional disparities experienced across health, education, economic, and social indicators.