Dianne Penberthy’s home town is Bonny Hills on the mid-north coast of NSW where she lives with her husband and daughter. Dianne began her training as a nurse back in the 1970s in Newcastle as a mental retardation nurse at Stockton Hospital. She went on to complete her psychiatric and general nursing in the Sydney area. In 2004 Dianne completed an Advanced Diploma in Business Management through the University of New England.

Dianne is a registered nurse specialist and has worked for the NSW Health Service most of her career of 30 years. She has just completed the NSW Health Clinical Leadership Program—Leading For Better Patient Outcomes and is a strong advocate for this program.

Currently Dianne is the acting manager of Macksville and Bellingen Community Health teams and the Rural Primary Health Service. This is a team of over 60 allied health and nursing staff located in three different community health services.

Dianne’s previous position, for six years, was the Health Promotion Coordinator for the Rural Primary Health Service, working in communities of populations >5000 on the mid-north coast of NSW. Her role was to improve community access to quality primary health care services by working in partnership with communities and health professionals where she has undertaken many successful community projects. The Losing it in the Bush program is one of these successful programs with some fantastic outcomes. This program was a finalist in the local Health District Quality Awards 2012 and the winner of the Hasting Macleay Allied Health Awards for the Best Multidisciplinary Team Project 2012.