Ann Sweeney

Ann Sweeney has been the Southern Tasmanian Coordinator for Core of Life (COL) since July 2012. This two-year position (one day a fortnight) was formed in collaboration between Indigenous Early Childhood Development (IECD)—Population Health, Youth Health and YFER, to enable the provision of Core of Life in schools and flexible learning programs in southern Tasmania. Ann’s role involves supporting service providers in registering for training as facilitators and providing follow-up support in delivering COL education sessions. This role is complementary to her role as youth health nurse. Ann supports YFER to deliver training courses, one of which has already taken place in late 2012. Ann also established a COL trainers network for southern Tasmania. Having originally started COL training in 2006, Ann is a trained instructor and also enjoys co-facilitating COL youth education sessions to the youth of Tasmania (including her embarrassed adolescent sons). Ann has a background in mental health, midwifery and counselling, having worked as a birth centre midwife for 15 years. She continues to work in mental health and youth health and has recently completed further study. Ann is enthusiastic about ensuring that young people get the message about the realities of pregnancy, birthing and parenting in an interactive and fun-filled way without feeling preached at, whilst supporting those working with young people in this program to have fun providing such important messages in an effective way. Ann is a registered general nurse, registered psychiatric nurse, registered midwife, and has a Master of Education I (Counselling) and Graduate Diploma in Nursing Speciality (Honours).