

## Margaret Rolfe

Dr Margaret Rolfe is an experienced biostatistician who has lived and worked in the rural Northern Rivers area of NSW since 1985. Dr Rolfe currently has a full-time academic research position as a biostatistician at Sydney University, Faculty of Medicine, School of Public Health with the University Centre for Rural Health—North Coast Lismore (from April 2011). In this role, she brings high level statistical and Geographical Information System expertise to a range of health related research projects, including the NHMRC funded project that she is presenting at this meeting. These skills have been fundamental as quantitative methods advisor to the NSW HETI Rural Research Capacity Building Program, which enable rural-based NSW Health practitioners to engage and be supported in research projects. Dr Rolfe holds an adjunct position with Southern Cross University School of Health and Human Science Lismore to enable higher degree student supervision. She was awarded a PhD in Bayesian Statistics from the Queensland University of Technology in 2010. Her thesis, titled “Bayesian Models for Longitudinal Data” includes a project using Bayesian statistical methods to identify sub-groups of women who had different trajectories of cognitive function over time following chemotherapy for early stage breast cancer. Dr Rolfe holds a BSc and Masters of Statistics, from the University of NSW. Her research interests include maternal and child health, nanotechnology attitudes, rural health issues, analysing linked hospitalisation data, longitudinal statistical modeling for health data, the analysis of spatial data using geographical information systems, designing and analysing clinical trials, survey data analysis.