

Dr Julie Thompson

General practitioner in Warragul for 15 years with extensive experience as a VMO and procedural GP and practice principal. Prior to that practice principal in urban Watsonia for 7 years.

Medical Director of Central-West Gippsland Division of General Practice for 8 years. Immediate past Chair ADGP.

I have experience as a board member at all levels of the Divisions movement: having served on the board of my local division, GPD-V and ADGP. My past experience has shown me to be an effective board member with a sound understanding of corporate governance.

I have held many representative positions on behalf of general practice and divisions over the past 10 years and value consultation and collaboration.

I have had the opportunity to visit many divisions both within Victoria and interstate, covering urban, regional, rural and remote divisions and have a sound understanding of the issues facing divisions and the practices they support.

General practice is more than primary care. We provide acute episodic care, care for those with chronic illness and with acute exacerbations of their chronic conditions and we do this across the whole of life and whole person. We operate in a fragmented system providing quality continuity of care on a shoestring budget compared with the acute hospital sector.

The Divisions have more than a decade of experience, supporting general practice and working with their local communities. They have made an enormous impact on the day-to-day working lives of GPs and their practice staff. They also have huge unmet potential hampered in their planning by short term contracts and inadequate funding. We have established our credentials as an integral part of the health system, we now need real commitment from those who fund us. And we need to broaden our funding base. Accessing state health dollars is vital.

For the Division network to achieve its potential, the national organisation, ADGP, needs to have clear communication and consultation with its member divisions, transparent processes and sound governance. If elected, my aim is to ensure that these are in place.