

Karen Grimmer-Sommers

Karen spent 19 years in clinical practice in Tasmania, in both the public and private systems, before moving to Adelaide to take up a research fellowship at the School of Physiotherapy, University of South Australia in 1995.

Karen completed her undergraduate physiotherapy degree (B. Pty) at University of Queensland in 1975, her Masters of Medical Science degree from University of Tasmania in 1989, and her PhD (Epidemiology) from Menzies Centre, University of Tasmania in 1996. Her PhD thesis explored population-based research into headache and posture, and questioned many of the traditional ways of physiotherapeutic measurement. Her interest in health service quality led her to complete the Certificate of Health Economics from Monash University in 1997.

At the University of South Australia, she worked initially as the Senior Research Fellow in the School of Physiotherapy, and in 1996 she assumed the directorship of the Centre for Allied Health Research, a position which she currently still holds. She was promoted to Professor of Allied Health, School of Health Sciences in January 2005. Karen's particular areas of primary research interest are in discharge planning systems, program evaluation and adolescent spinal health.