



# Dr Jodi Glading

**Deputy Chief Medical Officer,**  
Department of Health

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**I have been with the Department of Health since 2016.** As Deputy Chief Medical Officer, I have a variety of roles. I am in charge of the clinical governance section, research governance and assist with disaster management and planning; ethical, technical, and clinical advisory questions. About half of my role involves dealing with state-level issues, and the other half is federal.

My career path to this job was really varied. At university, I studied psychology, and later did a Masters in Clinical Psychology. Then I worked as a criminal psychologist in the prison system but that wasn't for me. Eventually, I decided to go to medical school because I had always had an interest in medicine. My prevocational years were in surgery and then as a registrar in ophthalmology, and I was miserable! It was great doing your first couple surgical procedures, but then it became very transactional. I thought: 'I can't do this for another 20 years.' I decided I really wanted to do something that focused on the policy or business-side of medicine, and eventually I ended up in medical management and then this role.

I really love my job. It involves a lot of problem solving and strategising—you get to engage in a lot of forward, future thinking. In five years' time how do we want the funding to look like? What do we

want to do differently today that positively impacts on the hospital systems of tomorrow? You don't really get to do that a lot in surgery. This job ticks a lot of boxes for me.

Working in Tasmania, a relatively small state, I have a breadth of responsibilities, which I enjoy. At the same time, I have a massive portfolio. It means that I have to be across a broad range of issues, which three or four people might be doing in other jurisdictions. There aren't a whole lot of other experts here to share the load—there's often nobody to handball your tasks to. That's probably my biggest challenge.

My advice for a young professional would be to keep your options open. I'm so glad that I did. When I was unhappy in ophthalmology, I was willing to ask people: what should I do, where should I go? It can also be extremely helpful to find yourself a mentor, someone who has navigated your career space before. It's not just helpful in terms of understanding the practical side of your career; it can also be reassuring to know that it can be done. It's just that moral boost to show that it is possible to have whatever kind of career you want.