



JEFF WHALAN  
LEARNING GROUP  
GROWING EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS



## Jo Gaha

Jo is a recognised leader and skilled facilitator of groups, relationships and organisational processes. Her commitment to fairness, equality of access and opportunity, finding one's strengths, becoming aware and the emergence of wisdom within self and others inform her work. Values and experience shape how we are in the world and a lack of awareness of these driving forces often hinders personal and organisational development. Her approach is collaborative, sensitive and direct as she supports clients to explore and consider new learning or options. Jo utilises her skills and experience when facilitating Executive Learning Groups as part of the Jeff Whalan Learning Group.

Jo has worked as a senior public servant, academic, social worker and trainer. Her professional undergraduate and postgraduate training was at Sydney University where she was a postgraduate University Medallist. Jo's first career as a social worker included work in immigration, health, child welfare, university counselling and community work. Her academic work includes teaching at Sydney and New South Wales Universities. She co-founded the University of Newcastle Social Work Department where she was a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department. Jo then spent ten years in the Commonwealth Public Service. At the SES level in Centrelink and the Department of Human Services, her drive, commitment and wisdom had a major impact in service delivery and policy development in a range of service areas including disability, rural servicing, Indigenous servicing and service delivery policy.

In 2012 Jo established her own small business as a consultant, coach/mentor and facilitator of Corporate Based Mindfulness Training. Throughout her career Jo has been involved in consulting, teaching, mentoring and coaching. She has supported the development of non-government organisations, training workers in communication, interpersonal, group and other professional skills, developing productive teams, and facilitating individuals and organisations to achieve their goals.

As part of her commitment to excellence and lifelong learning Jo has completed numerous adult education and professional courses and her work is a synthesis of a number of influences. More recently she has completed courses in Leadership Mentoring (Maxma Associates), Executive Coaching (Institute of Executive Coaching), the Cranlana Program and she is an accredited senior trainer for the Potential Project and its Corporate Based Mindfulness Training.

Jo is an active member of her community, volunteering on the Rural Fire Brigade, the Michelago Regional Community Association, Landcare and Michelago School.

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