



## ON THE JOB

**Joachim Fluhrer**  
Integrative medical practitioner

**Age** 50

### Qualifications

I've graduated from Naturopathic Physicians School at Wetzlar, Germany, and from Sydney University's medical school. I also received a fellowship from the Australasian College for Nutritional and Environmental Medicine.

### Did genes, environment, destiny or accident get you here?

My parents, Friedrich and Hanna, encouraged me to study medicine because that's what they would have done if it weren't for the war.

### Why did you choose this area of work?

By 12 I'd decided to study a combination of natural therapies with conventional medicine, just as our family physician, Heinrich Honegger, had done. Naturopathy has been officially recognised in Germany since 1937.

### What do you do?

I am medical director of the Your Health Group with its two integrative medical centres in Sydney, one in Brisbane and one in Melbourne. I am also a practising GP, integrating conventional medicine

with natural therapies and treatment options. I might use vitamins, for instance, to modify the body's chemistry.

### Toughest part of job?

Dealing with a life-threatening illness demands respect for dignity.

### Most satisfying part?

Guiding the chronically unwell back to health, especially children.

### If you could, what would you change?

I'd swap our disease-based health system to a wellness-based one.

### How do other people see you?

A peacemaker and a team

player, but some think I'm not tough enough.

### What are you proudest of?

Working with 50 other integrative practitioners towards achieving our vision of a health-focused nation.

### Strange career moment?

The whole village in outlying Nepal, when they found out I was a doctor, lined up to shake my hand. They have so little.

### Motto

My daughter Jasmine reminded me yesterday that teamwork means: Together Everyone Achieves More.

**Sharon Lindsay**