

## Sally Cockburn (Dr Feelgood)

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### *GP and Health Advocate*

Dr Sally Cockburn, known in the media also as Dr Feelgood, is Australia's leading health communicator. she graduated from Monash University Medical School and spent 6 years working in public hospitals. Sally now specialises in General Practice, working part time and has extensive clinical and teaching experience.

Along with over 30 years clinical experience Sally has also worked extensively in media for over 2 decades. She is a nationally known personality in television, radio and print.



An avid public speaker and writer, Sally's media career began in 1990 when one of her patients asked her to be part of a new radio show she was producing. Because of medical board recommendations she was not able to use her real name and so "Dr Feelgood" was born ! Her weekly health segment on the phenomenally successful 3AW breakfast program, Lawyers Guns and Money continued for 2 years until, believe it or not, another patient suggested an opportunity for her own show, on another radio network!

From 1993, her 6 years as host of top rating national radio talk back sex and relationships program "Pillowtalk" on the Austereo Network gathered her a loyal following all over Australia due to her down to earth, practical advice on matters of the heart and body. To this day Pillowtalk is still remembered by many as providing them with much needed information on matters of sex and relationships.

Sally also produced and hosted several radio specials for Austereo and 3AW. "Real talk about Heroin", "the Study survival Guide" for HSC students and "The Truth about HRT". The latter program was put together in three days in a response to the glut of confusing information about HRT and its risks which hit the media in July 2002 . It drew unprecedented public interest.

Sally hosted her own national Saturday night TV talk show with the Seven network in 1994 called "Dr Feelgood" and presented a weekly medical segment on Good Morning Australia with Bert Newton on Channel 10 for nine years. In 2001 she wrote and hosted her own TV series of 24 episodes called "Your Health with Dr Feelgood" and she has made guest appearances on many Australian TV shows including Beauty and the Beast and Battle of the Sexes.

In 1996 she became one of the first media presenters to host an Internet site being part of the launch of MSN in Australia and has been active in online activities ever since.

In 1994 Sally's book "Dr Feelgood's thoughts on Sex and Relationships" was published. It reached the bestseller list. She has also written advice columns and articles for many national magazines including New Idea and New Woman and the sealed section Q&A for popular teen publication Girlfriend Magazine.

Sally returned to 3AW in 1998 to host her own talk back radio program Life Essentials and appeared weekly as Medical Presenter on the top rating Neil Mitchell radio program. In 2002 she hosted a national weekend program and continued to produce and host health specials until in 2008 she was given a regular year round show on Sunday evenings "Talking Health".

Throughout this time she has remained active in General Practice which sees her work in a busy and diverse clinic and keeps her in touch with issues facing the public. She has a strong commitment to undergraduate and postgraduate Medical Education. She has held a post as Senior Lecturer at Monash University Medical School where she taught communication skills to medical students and was part of the team that devised the communications curriculum for the medical school.

Sally has been a consultant to Parks Victoria in the development of their Healthy Parks Healthy People Initiative. This project won the coveted 2002 Banskia Foundation communication award and the 2001 Marketing Industry of Australia State Public Sector Award for Marketing Excellence.

She has been the recipient of an MBF award for excellence in Health Journalism for Radio in 1996 and the Radio Industry's prestigious "Raward" for Best Australian Radio Documentary in 1999.

As well as media and General Practice she is also active in community affairs and charities - Sally is a past Chair of the Variety Club of Victoria, a committee member of Interplast and the Thomaiy Breast Cancer foundation. She has also been a member of Monash Medical Faculty Foundation and Chair of the community relations and Alumni committee.

Sally served as a member of the Committee of Management of Melbourne's Metropolitan Ambulance Service for 6 years, and was also part of the 20 member Victorian State Ministerial Advisory Committee on Women's Health. She has also been Chair of the National Communication Strategy Project Committee for Organ Donation. Sally was also on the Board of Vic Health and Arthritis Victoria and Chair of Family Planning Victoria. Sally was also Ministerial appointee to the Sexual Health Task Force and Mental Health Reform Council in Victoria.

In 2002 she has been appointed to the Patron's Council of the Royal District Nursing Service and as a patron of the Southern Mental Health Association. She has been awarded Arthritis Victoria's prestigious Lorin Prentice Award for outstanding contribution in raising public awareness of musculoskeletal disease. Sally is also a proud ambassador for the Lort Smith Animal Hospital

In December 2001 she was appointed an Australia Day Ambassador by the Victorian Premier. She

was one of 100 prominent Victorians who represented our State in promoting festivities on our National Day on January 26 2002 . In 2010 Sally was inducted into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll and also received MOnash University's Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Sally's aim is to debunk jargon, demystify medical matters and help people understand their body. She's not afraid to tackle the delicate issues and approaches these with sensitivity and humour. Ignorance breeds fear and everyone deserves answers.

Sally is a sought after public speaker who works to improve communication on both ends of the stethoscope !

Sally is mum to Amy and her two dogs, Molly and Tink.

Sally's interest in social justice has lead her to be involved in several high profile quests such as:

- In 2006 she worked with then Senator Kay Patterson to assist her with the passage of her historic bill which saw law reform allowing embryonic stem cell research to happen in Australia\* In 2008 Sally was an advocate for law reform in the area of Abortion in Victoria.
- In 2012 Sally was involved as a consultant to Gordon Legal in their landmark Thalidomide case.

## Client testimonials

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“ Sally presented some serious health issues to a group of 90% men with great success. Her blunt but humorous nature had them all riveted - Very pleased with our choice.

- **Australian Accident Repair Network**

“ Sally was very funny and enjoyable to listen to. Many delegates commented that she was a great presenter and the subject matter was highly relevant to personal; relationships, self health and the ability to deliver in the work place. A lot of people found that the talk was much needed and great to finally have a 'balance' given the attention it deserves!

- **Department of Finance and Administration**

“ Very easy to liaise with. prior to and, on the day. This allowed suitable inclusion of the overall seminar theme and entertainment pitched at the right level. Dr Feelgood's approach and content were valued by delegates and partners alike.

- **Institute of Quarrying, Vic**

“ We had great feed back from our attendees, they all loved Dr Feelgood, and found her speech humorous but with a serious theme, and with good practical advice.

**- Women in Super Christmas Luncheon**

“ Sally was received very well by the audience. She also made herself available to audience members to have a chat to afterwards which was a really lovely touch.

**- Queensland Alliance for Mental Health**

“ I have received fantastic feedback on Sally and have had enquiries from other departmental areas that are looking to engage her for some of their upcoming events. Some the the comments were; 'She was brilliant and funny;' 'She was very entertaining and I could have listened to her for ages,' and 'She was down to earth and said it like it is.'

**- Department of Justice**

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