

Career Story – Rhonda Elsley, Secondary School Teacher – Special Education

+Your name	Rhonda Elsley
+Your email	rhonda.elsley@nsw.det.edu.au
Telephone	
Your age	51
Your gender	F
Q1: What is your current job/career?	
Secondary school teacher in special education	
Q2: Why did you choose your job/career? - did you have a plan? - what resources if any did you use?	
After working as a Teacher aide special I enrolled in uni as a mature age student.	
Q3: How would you like your job/career to develop and what do you need to do to make the change?	
Would like to eventually be a Head teacher, just finished masters in spec ed behaviour and now seeking experience as relief HT.	
Q4: When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?	
A nurse	
Q5: What challenges do you need to overcome to "get the life you love"?	
I worked in a glove factory after leaving school at 15 because my mum could not afford to keep me at school. I married young, became a single mum after 15 years of marriage and raised my 5 children. I began work as a school cleaner, then when my youngest started school I worked as a teacher aide, when my youngest turned 12 I enrolled in full time uni while still working full time and 3 teenagers at high school. I now have a permanent teaching position and love my job so I feel I have overcome the challenges and just need to overcome my HECS bill, save some money. I already love my life.	