

Careers Adviser – Charmaine, (Age 31 – 50)

Q1: What is your current job/career?

I am a Careers Adviser in a high school and I am also a parent.

Q2: Why did you choose your job/career? - did you have a plan? - what resources if any did you use?

I didn't have a plan to become a Careers Adviser. Life with all its twists and turns just lead me to it. I think fate also had a hand in it. At school I worked in retail and at a local cinema. When I left school I trained as a primary school teacher. I then worked as an international flight attendant whilst still doing casual teaching in my time off. I then left and took time out and studied an alternative form of counselling. After I completed this I worked as an information officer and started studying to become an actress. I continued the acting training and went back to casual teaching, first in primary schools as a teacher including a stint as a school librarian. I then decided to try my hand at casual teaching in high schools where I taught many different subjects including drama. I was then offered a part time temporary position at Katoomba High School and taught Geography and PD/H/PE. At that time the current Careers Adviser decided to resign. As I had worked in many different jobs I decided that I would be a good candidate for the position and I applied. I have been here now for a number of years and really enjoy it. It is amazing how most every day in my work I use some skill that I have collected over the years. Touch typing is especially helpful. The students are often amazed that I can type and have a conversation with them at the same time. Now, that is multi tasking!!

Q3: How would you like your job/career to develop and what do you need to do to make the change?

I would like to be able to stay on top of the mail. As a Careers Adviser I receive a large amount of mail each week. Sometimes with the hectic pace of the day the mail is pushed to the bottom of the list. The change that I need to make is to make sure the mail is at the top of the list each day.

Q4: When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a teacher or a nurse.

Q5: What challenges do you need to overcome to "get the life you love"?

I really enjoy working with young people and quite enjoy my job. Participating in the development of young people and seeing them change and grow is a joy. I believe that in order to get the life that I love I just need to make it an intention each day to enjoy my job and my life even more than I did the day before and stop more often and smell the roses.