

Careers Counsellor – Gwen

Q1: What is your current job/career?

Careers Counsellor at Danebank School

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

I did not choose my current career, it chose me. After finishing school I undertook a secretarial course and worked in this area for 12 years before staying home with my young family. I had always wanted to be a teacher and I used some of the time while I was at home to study to become a TAFE teacher in the business area. I worked for eight years as a part-time TAFE teacher before coming to Danebank in an administrative capacity. After I had been here for five years the part-time Careers Counsellor retired and I was offered the position as a full-time career. I studied the offerings of all the universities to find a course which would skill me in the careers area. I then undertook further training in this area and have enjoyed developing this area within the school and learning every day in the position.

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

As a result of my work in careers I have become very interested in the human resources area and would really like to move on to work in this area. To do so I would need to complete a course at TAFE or undertake a post-graduate diploma in that discipline. Perhaps this is a possibility for some more study next year?

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

As a child I always wanted to be a teacher. However, for financial reasons I had to leave school at 14, so achieving my goal has happened by a rather circuitous route.

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

Challenges to be overcome are: . the need to gain some further qualifications, and . the question of ageism. Would employers discriminate against me because I am older than some people in the workforce? I have the energy and drive to do this. Would employers acknowledge this? I believe my life and work experiences would be very helpful in such a role.