

## **Guidance Officer – Melissa, (Age 31 – 50)**

### **Q1: What is your current job/career?**

Guidance Officer

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

I am currently working as a Guidance Officer. I chose this occupation because I was teaching high school and had a voice injury. This is a permanent injury and I was faced with a difficult decision. I knew I wanted to be in education and counselling had been something sitting at the back of my mind since meeting and being inspired by the school counsellor in my very first teaching position.

### **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 become a qualified Psychologist and work for myself. To make the change I would like to become experienced in the work I do as a Guidance Officer and within the next five years begin studying Psychology.

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

I had absolutely no clue, nor did I think about it.

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

I have the life I love right now through the hard work I have done to achieve the work role I am currently in. The challenges I have faced have been that I was clueless about my direction from the start. I chose to study IT straight out of school because there weren't many girls in the field. I hated IT. After completing my IT degree and being unemployed for 3 months I had to actually think about what I wanted. I remembered how disappointed I was that the high school teachers I had didn't notice the struggles I had in the classroom. I decided to become a teacher and pay attention to the students and their ability to cope. After being a teacher for a few years, I had a voice injury and could no longer teach full time in the classroom. I was challenged again to consider my career pathway. I overcame this challenge by tapping into another area of interest, which was counselling, so that I could continue to work with students and assist in their welfare. I am doing what I love.