

“ **VET was a real confidence builder for me. It made me realise that yes I do know this and yes I can do this. It all started with that first course.** ”

Carla Willcox's journey

Today Program Coordinator, Community Services

2016-17 Certificate IV & Diploma in Leadership and Management
Certificate IV and Diploma in Community Services

2015 Certificate III in Disability

2002-15 Stay at home parent



I'm a Program Coordinator in disability care and support with Community Services in Tasmania, with a team of 35 staff, but how did I get here?

Carla's story

In 2015, I decided I wanted to get back into the workforce after 13 years as a stay at home parent as the youngest of my four children was starting school. I looked around at what I wanted to do and realised I needed to up-skill.

I was interested in community work and I secured a place to complete a Certificate III in Disability. I was hesitant to return to study because of time and other constraints, and I was lacking in confidence, but once I started the course, I thrived. When I did my practical placement, I knew I had made the right decision. I was quickly in paid employment as a support worker.

Since then I haven't looked back and I'm stunned at how far I've come in such a short time. I'm now in a management position and I've completed several more VET qualifications, up to Diploma level, in Community Services, and Leadership and Management. It all started with that first course. VET was a real confidence builder for me. It made me realise that yes I do know this and yes I can do this.

If you don't get something the first time, you can go back until you do get it. A lot of people don't realise that this is how it works.

"VET is set up to be flexible so you can study when it suits you, and can work around your family commitments."