



# Mrs Kerri Buttery

Director of VET Content Development, VELG Training

## What year did you graduate?

1994

## Memory of High School?

I enjoyed lots of time sitting under H block (no longer there) with friends who were also musical playing guitars and singing at lunch time.

## What was your favourite subject?

Music and Business Studies.

## Family?

Now married to an electrical engineer and have a 5 year old son.

## Did you know what you wanted to be during High School?

Yes and no – originally wanted to work in law and put this down as my first preference. I started work in a law firm a week after school finished but after 6 weeks decided it wasn't going to be for me. This is when I changed my uni preferences to teaching which was a much better fit for me.

## What did you do on your first year out of school?

Studied my first year of a Bachelor of Education (Business) at QUT.

## What are you doing now career wise?

I now work with schools and other registered training organisations around the country, assisting them with developing learning and assessment materials and other aspects of nationally recognised training.

## How did you get to where you are now in your career?

After uni I taught Business Education and IT subjects that were both Authority subjects (contribute to an OP) and Vocational Education & Training (VET). After three years of teaching I became a Head of Department and RTO Manager at St Columban's College at Caboolture. This was a steep learning curve for me and something I worked very hard for. While in this position I was also approached to teach in both the Education and Business faculties at QUT. I had a very supportive Principal and was able to juggle part-time university lecturing/tutoring at the Caboolture campus of QUT while also working at the school full-time. I was also approached by a publisher and asked to write a business education textbook (which is still widely used in schools across the state for middle school business).

Looking for the next stage in my career I applied for a position at the Queensland Studies Authority (now QCAA). In this position I initially worked with senior school teachers across the state in the Quality Assurance Branch. I then moved across to become an auditor, travelling around the state auditing schools on senior VET programs. I eventually decided it was time to move on but I enjoyed the world of VET. For a while I worked for the Queensland Police Service Academy in their training section. I then became a consultant with the aim of helping schools before their dreaded audit, to



make the process easier and ensure they knew what needed to be done. I'm still doing this after 7 years (with short stints at QCAA on contract in between) and expanded this to other training organisations across the country as well as schools in Queensland.

The company I work for now is Australia's largest provider of professional development for the vocational education and training sector.

**What is the favourite thing of doing your job?**

Helping people, especially schools. Teachers have so much on their plates these days and a whole range of areas to think about. I can help make one part of their job a bit easier.

**How would you advise students to plan for the future?**

Make use of work experience opportunities while still at school – this is invaluable. It is important to find out everything you can about a particular career so you can work out early if it is something you're going to enjoy.

**Any tips on being successful?**

Work hard and establish networks. Many of my opportunities came through being involved in volunteer committees and groups in the education sector. Also, don't underestimate the power of social media – it can work for you or against you. Be careful what you post online as it will follow you forever – use it in a positive manner. Career-wise different forms of social media come in to play (ie LinkedIn) and learn how to use this to your advantage.

