



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.

