

## **Sue Hummerston**

### **Enrolled Nurse**

#### **Residential – City of Bayswater**

Hi my name is Sue, at 17 I was employed in an aged care facility as a care worker in country Victoria, which is where I originate. After approximately 12 months I felt I was not ready for such a demanding & responsible job.

I then went to work in the Hospitality Industry both in Victoria and here in WA. I worked two jobs, 6 days a week for 12 years, lunch bars and café's by day & barmaid by night and weekends.

By the year 2001 I felt unsettled & unhappy with my employment status. This then sparked a renewed passion to work in aged care again. With the support of my husband I embarked on a new career, firstly re-learning the basics of care needs, then gaining employment in an aged care facility. This led me straight to a High Level Care Dementia Unit. In 2002 the facility sent me to Austral College to complete my Certificate Three and also to Alzheimer's Australia to complete Dementia Training. In 2004, I applied for a position at Mertome Villiage and to my delight I was offered employment. We then moved to our current new facility, City of Bayswater Hostel which is still operated by UCH. During this time I applied and was accepted to partake in the Enrolled Nursing Program in 2005, supported & organized through UCH. I successfully completed and became an Enrolled Nurse in 2008. I then did a graduate program with UCH at our current facility.

Before I accepted the Graduate Program I had been accepted to complete the same at Princess Margaret Hospital. Through a lot of soul searching I realized I could not leave the Aged Care Sector as this has always been my passion, as my mother reminded me that at 8 years of age I told her, *"I want to look after old people when I grow up because no-one deserves to die old & alone."*

I was then given a permanent position at COB and remain happy and content with my role.

During this time the support of management, colleagues and support persons at UCH State Office have made my journey and dreams possible and memorable. Without that it would have been difficult as you need all the support you can get.

Having said that, the most important thing to remember is *"only you have the ability to succeed"* you are responsible for your own destiny, the people who help & support you on the way are a gift & added bonus.