

PATHWAYS INTO OUR SECTOR

Growing the domestic and family violence, sexual assault, women's health and wellbeing workforce.



Kathleen Hope, General Manager Sunny Kids
Diploma in Community Services,
Bachelor of Psychology

From student placement to General Manager

Having not completed high school, Kathleen knew direct access to university was not possible.

In 2010 she finally took the plunge to pursue her passion, studying a Diploma of Community Services fulltime at TAFE Queensland. Kathleen undertook placement at Sunny Kids exploring program logic for the service.

This led to her first job in the sector as a support worker within Sunny Kids, a Sunshine Coast not-for-profit that offers a range of services for women and children impacted by domestic and family violence. Kathleen remained at Sunny Kids, progressing through various roles such as case management, Key Worker, Acting Team Leader, Team Leader and Service Manager. In 2020, she was

promoted to General Manager. During this time she began an Undergraduate Degree in Psychology.

"I feel a compulsion now to continue working in this sector. For me, it's all about the human connection and affecting positive change. It's such a privilege to be involved in someone's world, particularly when they're at their most vulnerable," Kathleen said.

Kathleen's advice to those considering working in the domestic and family violence sector is to develop excellent time management skills because the sector is fast paced and crisis driven.

"It's a humble privilege to be involved in someone's world when they are vulnerable."

"Understand that your job will not be 9 to 5 because you'll always be thinking about your clients and the challenges they face. This means compassion fatigue is possible, as is trauma," she said.

Kathleen encourages workers to be aware of their own triggers and trauma history, and access professional supervision to ensure work experiences do not impact negatively on the families you work with—or on your own.

Kathleen delights in supporting and empowering women and children to move beyond the effects of domestic and family violence.

"I'm content in my current role because it allows me to provide—and grow—quality services here on the Sunshine Coast."

For more information visit:
workupld.org.au/resource-hub



WorkUP
QUEENSLAND