

PATHWAYS INTO OUR SECTOR

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

From newly arrived migrant to Manager CALD DFV Support Service



Marica Ristic, Manager
Gold Coast CALD DFV Support Service
Cert IV AOD, Dip Community Services,
Masters in Social Work, Bachelor of Counselling

"I am rewarded every day by seeing the amazing capacity for women to survive and change their lives," says Marica.

Marica's career started with an English language program at TAFE Queensland. She also sought recognition of her overseas qualification—Bachelor in Political Science.

Marica's local TAFE Queensland campus offered qualifications in the human services area. Marica studied a Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs and then a Diploma in Community Services.

These qualifications led to her first job as a Community Settlement Officer at the Multicultural Families Organisation.

"I was fortunate to have an amazing mentor," Marica said.

It was this that enabled Marica to develop her skills, extend her role, and strengthen and formalise her practice framework.

In 2011, Marica was engaged by the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre, and again received excellent supervision and support. Over the next decade, Marica worked at the Macleod Refuge, undertook studies towards a Masters in Social Work and a Bachelor in Counselling, and took on her current role as a Manager of the Multicultural Families Domestic and Family Violence program.

Marica occasionally encounters people she has supported, and is

rewarded by feedback that they have found peace and achieved stability in their lives.

Marica advises those interested in working in the domestic and family violence sector to develop their skills and knowledge, and understand they require energy and passion, as there are many stresses and expectations.

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