**Abdi Sharif:** Oh, was very new place, was new country, new language, new culture, everything was new so I had to learn everything bit by bit so I started learning English first, got used to the English and then started learning the people and everything and then went to school and started school from Year 9. We've got lectures, you got tutorials and we got practical classes. We do ... especially this year we do things like working in the hospital, train in the hospital, treat patients. Usually we work with kids under the age of 20 so yeah, it’s hands-on course, I like it. I chose to come to university because ... for education, so I wanted to become educated at least in one area then do something with your life.

**Dr Cheryl Dissanayake:** My research covers quite a broad range of research topics, varying from very applied research to much more basic research so for example from the applied view we’re looking at how autism manifests in infancy so we’re really trying to understand the very early signs of autism. These disorders affect one in 100 children and they can be quite debilitating and so the disorder not only affects the child but also the family around them so focusing in on this ... these disorders and trying to understand them helps us then to develop treatments and focused intervention programs that help the child and the family and really ultimately the community.

**Stephanie Chard:** My original background was a senior secretary but I came in at the role of admin assistant too. My level of education at that stage was that I left school at 15 so I’d finished school at Year 9 but through my work and through my progression through the University from an admin assistant through to the Secretary of the Dean of Physical and Health Sciences then as an admin officer in another area then back to a senior secretary with another dean and a new superstructure and then on to a managerial role. My studies ... I undertook my legal studies degree while I was with the Dean of Health Sciences and completed that before I moved on to the Equality and Diversity Centre where I completed my honours degree. The University through its change program now is improving the staff development, both for general and professional staff and academic staff so there will be more opportunities now than what there was 25 years ago. The University gave me enormous opportunity to be able to do that. If I’d worked outside of the University it would be highly unlikely that I would be as educated as I am today.

**Liz Lavender:** You can see behind me this magnificent new building which is architecturally designed and will become I think the most significant building in Shepparton. You can see that it has a unique design and this is in order to achieve natural light penetration and I had the privilege of going around the building the other day and indeed there is not a room that does not have natural light so I think the staff and students would be very pleased about that. It has a concrete slab that provides cooling, there is energy efficient air-conditioning. Out the back there are massive water tanks. They’re in fact buried so you can’t see them but that will allow for recycling of rainwater and both the water fixtures and the lighting fixtures are designed so that they’re energy efficient. Students and staff will be able to ride to work now and there’s plenty of room for students and staff to store their bikes and then take a shower and all this has been done in order to achieve a five star energy rating.