## Social Work Transcript

**Text on Screen:**

Social Work

**Text on Screen:**

Michelle

“Since I graduated in 2010, I’ve had two different positions. I’ve been a financial counsellor and a case manager in the placement prevention program. The two positions were very different which was fantastic and gave a bit of an idea about working in different areas. Financial counselling was very fast. People would come in and have their half an hour meeting and you were talking about debt collection and people were being hassled by debt collectors, so the issues were around debt. It was really, I was on a steep learning curve, and that was fantastic. So I learnt as much as the clients I was talking too. And placement prevention was at the aboriginal co-op here in Bendigo, which was great. So I got to do a lot of intensive in house interviews. So spending a lot of time with aboriginal families, being in their kitchens, having a coffee, having kids sitting on my laps just talking about what was happening in their lives. The main issue in that area was child protection, so these families were at risk of having their children removed from them. So, yeah, also a lot of emotion. But it was lovely to spend time with the families.

**Text on Screen:**

Lindsay

“Since I’ve graduated from La Trobe University with a social work degree, I’ve worked with an Australian Disability Employment service in Bendigo in Victoria within the Disability services employment stream, commonwealth funded. Our work involves working with people with disability, whether it is physical impairment, mental impairment, mental illness, intellectual disability and trying to assist them to find employment within the open employment sector. Our goal is that everyone should have the opportunity to obtain employment if that’s their wish.”

**Text on Screen:**

Courtney

“I’ve been doing a variety of work, mainly in the family violence sector, had some really strong practice experience in that. I’m currently working in the homelessness sector as well as the Network coordinator for the Loddon Mallee homelessness network.”

“Well probably the most satisfying bit is realising that I love it. I’ve gone back to study now, I’m doing my PhD and I already miss it. So that’s been wonderful to find out because you do the whole degree and you think oh my gosh am I even going to like it, so getting in the job it’s actually a little bit addictive. It’s in your minds when you go home afterwards, “Oh what am I going to do tomorrow” because you are creating something you are creating a better way for people, and so I found that part of it addictive, so I really loved it.

The challenges would be, and you learn it, you are constantly learning it, and that would be the home/work balance you know you almost take off your superman outfit when you get home, and you have to do it, and you have to sit there, and be alright, I’m not this person anymore, I’m just at home and relaxing and I think that’s really a big part about not having burn out, because you do love it but then it does take a lot out of you, and as long as you can work on that work/home life balance then that really adds to your career as a social worker, that you can continue, be there the next month, be there the next year.”

“What I find most satisfying about being a social worker is the ability to advise people in need. One in 5 Australians have a disability and more and more people are now identifying as having a disability and we advocate for those people with a disability to get into the workforce, we advocate for their legal needs, assist them with housing, health organisations, community organisations, financial services. Our role is to assist a person with disability in those areas, so that they can hopefully move into open and ongoing sustainable employment.”

“There are so many issues and its so varied and that’s one of the strong things I love about doing social work. A lot of issues at the moment relate to policy and current government positioning as well, and the policy positioning for the homelessness and family violence sectors. When you are dealing with clients there are so many satisfying experiences, some of them can include actually making a difference and changing peoples lives and helping them navigate some of the system and sector experiences that they may not be otherwise able to navigate as successfully if they didn’t engage with services.”