



## STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

### Joan: A New Future...

At Virtual Enterprise Australia (VEA) we pride ourselves on the benefits of our program and how it can really help students enter the workforce. When educational institutions take up this program they are giving their students an extra step towards achieving employment and a certain future.

One of our flagship students completed her Certificate III in the virtual enterprise (VE), worked in industry for 3 years and then joined the very institute she was educated in, to become one of our outstanding facilitators. Here are a few words from her.

**Name:** Joan Knoblauch  
**Current Job Role:** Teacher, TAFE NSW, Sydney Institute  
**Course:** Certificate III in Business Administration & Document Production Bureau (1998)  
**Virtual Enterprise:** Diamonds, Pearls and Bangles VE, TAFE NSW, Sydney Institute



#### **Why was working in the VE beneficial to your career?**

Now that I am a facilitator in a virtual enterprise it has helped me understand the fear and anxiety students feel when they first start working in a VE. It has helped me to create better 'to do' lists and tasks for my students. It also assisted me in getting my first job in an office as I said the VE gave me current work experience and my potential employer was impressed to see that.

#### **What were the most useful business skills you gained?**

Teamwork, using my initiative and being creative.

#### **What was the no. 1 experience that made a difference for you when you joined the workforce?**

My facilitator helped me to see how important initiative is when working. If you can work independently and think on your feet you will go far when working. This helped me to progress in all my career job roles.

#### **How do you feel your time in the VE prepared you for the workplace?**

I was able to learn how to use each piece of equipment and had confidence in office procedures.

#### **Is there anything else you would like to say about this program?**

Attending an International Trade Fair in Melbourne was an amazing experience and it enabled me to see the bigger VEA picture. It was an opportunity that was great fun and gave me experience to network and practice in interacting face to face with others.