

Sharon is Achieving her Goals: A Victoria Police Mobility Story

Sharon worked as a Victoria Police officer for 21 years, undertaking duties in a range of specialisations before taking on the role of Youth Resource Officer (YRO). Family responsibilities led to her resignation. Sharon then worked in human resource management in the disability sector, gaining knowledge, experience and qualification before re-joining Victoria Police six years later. She is currently undertaking refresher training at the Victoria Police Academy and will then resume duties at Transit Safety Division. This is her story.

Sharon resigned from Victoria Police because ... I was a police widow ... my kids were in that category when they are most at risk – between 10 and 14. I just couldn't juggle anymore, especially being on my own. I just got frustrated. Something had to give. Some people choose the job over their family, I chose the kids.

Because of her responsibilities outside work, Sharon felt trapped ... I was pretty much pigeon holed into the YRO role. No flexibility to move any shifts, I couldn't do weekends or afternoons, I couldn't get tied up. There was a lot of frustration that was building up.

Sharon's career change was a shift in direction ... I went into disability in HR. I pretty much learned everything from scratch. I knew nothing about disability, except what I'd picked-up on the job.

She found that her time in Victoria Police influenced everything she did afterwards, including the way she wrote file notes and how she talked to people ... my boss noted that my

communication skills were vastly superior to other people he had worked with. People with disabilities can often lose it, I just knew how to deal with it.

Sharon decided to come back to Victoria Police because ... I really missed it. As much as I liked my new job, I didn't love it the same way. Reflecting on where I'd been, where I was and where I wanted to go, none of which I could achieve where I was but all of which I could if I went back.

Having left and come back gives you a different perspective and that is positive.

I think those sorts of things keep you fresh.

Regarding the skills she learned and about her return ... when it comes to people management I feel a lot more prepared for managing people than if I had gone through the departmental ranks.

I think you view things very differently having left. You get a different side of things; you get a view of the corporate world and different organisations. Sometimes you think the grass might be greener but not necessarily.

You don't have that tunnel vision. When people have been there for a long time they don't know what the options are when they leave. They've got nothing to compare it with. When you've got something to compare you don't have that closed perspective. You've seen the outside world.

Sharon sees all options open to her and has a broad view of what her future could hold: In an ideal world I'd like to work my way up a little. I wouldn't mind being a boss one day. I don't want to rehash what I had, I don't want to go back to being a YRO ... I'd like to do keep my options open. I've always wanted to go to the Highway Patrol. Ultimately I'd like to go somewhere like Major Collisions. It becomes a lot more holistic. A bit of a finger in a lot of pies.

Turn over to see Sharon's career map...

A Victoria Police Mobility and Capability Map

