

Submission Number: 121
Date Received: 12/04/2013



My name is Karen Woodhall. I was a mother and housewife, at home in Canberra, for 23 years.

At the age of 50 (in 2010), after my children had left home, I returned to the education system in the hopes of retraining, and finding paid employment. I chose to take certificates 3 & 4 in visual arts (full time study)

Over 2011 and 2012, I completed a Visual Arts Diploma, and Advanced Diploma of Visual Arts and Design Practice (part time)

My body of work for the graduating exhibition consisted of polymer clay brooches and buttons, and a textiles piece.

Shortly after graduating, I followed my husband to Nelson, New Zealand - to experience a year of living in a different environment and country.

Since arriving in Nelson I have been selling my polymer clay jewellery at the Saturday markets, have had my work accepted in a Gallery/shop, and am about to plan some craft workshops for the local community.

Without my three years at the Canberra Institute of Technology, none of this would have been possible.

It was a very enjoyable time, if a little stressfull sometimes - when being stretched, to achieve the best possible work.

I am deeply indebted to the wonderful teachers, and their commitment to a quality education, and excellence in the Visual Arts field.

The other thing I need to mention is that the cost of three years' study was fairly reasonable, and I hope that the fees will remain manageable for future students.

Remaining deeply grateful for the study opportunity..... Karen Woodhall