



Teaching through every moment

# World Teachers' Day QLD

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worldteachersday.com.au

## From accounting firm to classroom

Karen Rohde was following her heart when she made the difficult decision to leave her accounting career to return to university and complete a Graduate Bachelor of Education.

"I knew I wanted to be a teacher in Year 12 but one of my business teachers gave me the valuable advice to study a Bachelor of Business and then a Diploma of Education so I had a wider variety of career options," Karen said.

"I followed this advice, but took a detour when I gained a graduate position with a large Chartered Accounting firm.

"For several years I put the idea of teaching behind me but the calling to teach returned and gradually became louder."

Karen has been a teacher for 20 years, specialising in legal studies, business, accounting, Christian studies, religion and ethics.

"Forming strong relationships with clients was important as an accountant, but at the end of the day it was all about money," she said.

"Teaching is about people and that's what drove me to make the decision to follow my heart and change careers.

"It's the connections and relationships with students, the laughs, the tears, the shared stories, that keep me going through the challenging times and this is ultimately the reason I teach."

Karen is a past student of Concordia Lutheran College, where she teaches now.

"I teach many students whose parents, aunts and uncles I went to school with – it's something special to have a shared history with my students."

Ms Rohde said having an impact on her students both during and after their school years is one of the many rewards of teaching.

"I love sowing the seed of an idea and working with students to grow that idea into something much bigger," she said.

"Helping students to find and develop their passions and seeing them succeed after school in careers that I helped them to discover an interest in is really special.

"If you're thinking about becoming a teacher, make sure you choose a teaching area that you are genuinely passionate about. You'll need loads of patience, a tough skin and a good sense of humour, but it's worth it."

### Karen Rohde

Concordia Lutheran College, Toowoomba