



Teaching through every moment

World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 28th October 2022
worldteachersday.com.au

Hearing loss inspires a new path

When Trish Taylor discovered her hearing was deteriorating, she was devastated it may mean she would have to give up the career she loved.

She wanted to continue teaching and use her gifts and talents to inspire others.

She now works as an advisory teacher, going into the classrooms of other teachers and supporting them in their work with students who have hearing impairment.

"I work with other teachers across a range of subjects and across a range of grades," Trish said. "I have come to love co-teaching where the other person is hearing. I am still inspired by many other teachers."

"What really motivates me is seeing the confidence of both students and teachers grow.

"Students with disability often have amazing resilience and when they feel understood and barriers are knocked down, they open up to the learning environment.

"I love seeing others be successful, both teachers and students," she said. "If I can contribute to that then I have helped to make a difference."

Trish started work in 1988 as a secondary music and history teacher. She always had a small hearing impairment but when her hearing started deteriorating significantly, she went back to university to become a teacher of the deaf.

At that time, she sought the advice of her high school teacher of the deaf, Mr Stapleton, who taught her that hearing loss was not an impediment to reaching her goals.

"He respected my decision to not wear hearing aids. He inspired me to see the world as my oyster and didn't think anything would be a barrier to me," she said.

One of Trish's fondest memories was watching a student with multiple disabilities graduate, remembering that the parents were full of anxiety at the beginning of high school.

"Teaching isn't for the faint hearted but the rewards can be amazing," she said.

Trish remembers wanting to be a teacher from as young as 8.

"I just loved school and the learning. I loved the library and still do," she said.

"The passion of my teachers inspired me and their power to influence was very strong alongside with my love of learning.

"The focus I have in my work today is self awareness and advocacy for students with hearing loss. Empowering students is one of the biggest influences for their love of learning."

Trish Taylor

Teacher of the Deaf / Advisory Teacher, Metropolitan Region, Queensland Department of Education