



Gloria Webb



Attended Dapto Public School from 1951 to 1957

- **Gloria Webb was a student at Dapto Public School from 1951 until 1957.**
- **In 1958 she was among the first intake of students at Dapto High School.**
- **During this year, while the school buildings in Dapto were being completed, she travelled to Wollongong and studied at the building of the old Domestic Science School for Girls in Smith Street.**
- **After leaving school Gloria attended Sydney Teachers' College for two years, studying to be a French and English teacher. She never taught French, but did teach English in a variety of secondary and primary schools in Eden, Bombala, and Newcastle.**
- **When she was thirty-two years old, after eleven years as a teacher and after being married and having two children, she left school teaching and started University study.**
- **She graduated twice: initially as a Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours, majoring in Sociology; and nine years later as a Doctor of Philosophy from the Medical School at the University of Newcastle. Her thesis was in the area of Behavioural Science in Medicine, on the topic of the relationship between alcohol and work injuries.**
- **While studying for her first degree, she worked first as a casual teacher and then as a research assistant in the Medical School. After completing my basic degree, she began work as an Instructional Designer with the Medical School, preparing and coordinating learning units for undergraduate medical students.**
- **Gloria held this position for two years, and then took a position as Professional Officer with the Professor of Behavioural Science at the Medical School. After working in this position for four years and while she was still completing her PhD thesis, she obtained a position as Lecturer at Mitchell College of Advanced Education at Bathurst (now Charles Sturt University).**



- For three years, during which time she completed her PhD thesis, she lectured to Social Science, Welfare, Arts and Nursing students in Medical Sociology and the Sociology of Family and Gender.
- Her next position was Public Education Manager with the New South Wales Cancer Council. Here she worked in the field of prevention and early detection of cancer, with the emphasis on preventable cancers such as skin, breast and cervical cancer.
- The next change in her life was a major one, moving to Cairns in Queensland and taking a job with the Division of Workplace Health and Safety in the Queensland public service, first as Senior Adviser and later as District Officer.
- This was a busy time academically, during which she published over twenty papers in journals, presented numerous papers on her research area, both in Australia and overseas, and was invited to join numerous influential working groups and committees for the Federal and Queensland governments, providing advice in the area of alcohol and other drugs in the workplace.
- At the same time, she was managing a very busy and important government area, having responsibility for managing Workplace Health and Safety in the area from just north of Townsville to the Torres Strait and across to the Gulf of Carpentaria. She managed up to sixteen staff, most of whom were Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors who did workplace inspections and investigated workplace deaths and injuries, as well as responding to complaints about hazardous workplaces.
- Gloria played a leadership role in educating the community about Workplace Health and Safety, giving numerous presentations to community groups, students, workers, members of the public, and union groups, as well as serving on local committees.
- After taking an early retirement, she commenced an entirely new career, starting up an editing business, now called Wordfix. I work as a freelance editor editing novels, research reports, academic papers, student theses and business documents. She also does book production management and book appraisals, as well as writing and editing website content.
- Recently, she started a small publishing company called Jabiru Publishing, specialising in family memoirs and assisting writers to self-publish.
- Gloria has lived in Cairns for twenty-two years, and now considers it her home. Her two children and her three grandchildren also live in Cairns, and she feels very much blessed to have her family living so close.

Gloria Webb says:

“I feel so happy that I am able to help other people realise their dreams. It’s the best job I’ve ever had, and my boss is really great! (I work for myself!)”