



**So long, farewell,  
thanks for all your amazing  
work**





# Helen Fithall

Helen worked here at Hobsons Bay City Council for 17 years and was Coordinator for almost 5 years. Helen helped navigate the team through the Covid years.

Helen was a fabulous support to our Universal, Enhanced and Immunisation Team.

Helen worked and lived in our local community and will be missed but is now enjoying a future of travel, music festivals and relaxation



# Marcia Armstrong



***Principal MCH Nurse Advisor  
March 2018 - July 2024***

*Thank you for the privilege of  
working with you across the state.  
Wishing you all the very best in  
your careers.  
Marcia*



# **Ann Hindell**

## **Dept of Health**



During 7+ years at City of Whittlesea, Ann Hindell lead the MCH unit with passion, dedication and commitment. She was a strong driver of service improvement, research and looking at the bigger picture and ways to further extend the way MCH service was delivered. Ann is known for her tireless commitment, her deep knowledge of the sector and community and her wit and dry sense of humour! Her wealth of knowledge across the MCH and Early Parenting services was a wonderful asset to our service.



# Anneliese Mathieson



After joining Port Phillip Council as a nurse immuniser in 1989, Anna became a MCH nurse in 2001. A lifelong Port Phillip resident, she is regularly greeted with cheery smiles and 'hellos' from past clients when out and about in Port Phillip.

Based at the Middle Park MCH centre, Anna has helped Port Phillip's youngest residents by tracking their milestones and providing advice on everything from growth, development, sleep settling and play to nutrition and home safety. Supporting maternal and paternal health and well-being is also part of her close-knit connection with the Port Phillip community.

Anna's warmth, kindness and expertise has been consistently recognized in feedback by appreciative parents and caregivers.

*Anna is an MCHN that demonstrates the essence of MCH philosophy and that is of building communities. Wherever I have worked with Anna she creates an inviting space for families to attend appointments, meet each other, attend groups and use our service to full advantage. She also promotes the importance of council spaces such as the library and toy libraries.*





# Leanne King

Leanne Crough has dedicated 40 years to the nursing profession, holding various roles from delivery healthcare in remote communities across Australia to most recently coordinating the MCH service at Mitchell Shire.

Leanne is admired for her dedication to her role, her compassionate leadership, and her innovative approach to delivering exceptional services to the community.

Leanne leaves a legacy of optimism, a willingness trying new things and an exciting vision for the future of MCH.



# Marg Madden

Marg's remarkable career as a MCH Nurse began in 1982, spanning several municipalities, including Eltham, Bulla, Preston, and Strathbogie Shires.

In recent years, she dedicated her time to working across Mitchell, Moira, and Greater Shepparton Councils, where her compassion and expertise made an impact on countless families.

Having retired in August, she is now relishing her well-earned retirement, exploring the world and creating new memories.

Her legacy of kindness and commitment to nurturing the next generation will be fondly remembered by her colleagues and the families she has supported over the years.





# Diane Gray

Di has been a cornerstone of the Mildura MCH team for over 20 years

A true wealth of knowledge, Di's gentle and calm approach has guided countless families, even now supporting the babies she once weighed, who have become new mothers themselves.

Always ready to share her wisdom, Di has been an incredible support to both nurses and families alike.



EMPLOYEE  
*Recognition*  
AWARDS



# Melody Cook



Melody has been an incredibly dedicated MCH nurse for over a decade, bringing care, support, and a can-do attitude to the Macedon Ranges Team.

Always willing to step up and lend a hand, her commitment has been deeply appreciated by both colleagues and families alike.

We wish her all the best as she moves into retirement.

By the sounds of it, she hasn't looked back and is now wondering how she ever had time for work! Wishing you a happy and fulfilling retirement, Melody!



# Sue Denmead

Sue's career in Maternal and Child Health at Stonnington & Melbourne has been nothing short of fulfilling, enjoyable, and certainly challenging at times. Starting at Princes Gardens MCHC in Prahran, Sue took over from an experienced nurse on her second day as a new graduate—an unforgettable initiation into the field.

With handwritten diaries showing up to 20 clients a day and new parent groups of over 30 families, Sue faced a "baptism of fire" but powered through with dedication and many hours of overtime.

Sue has valued the opportunity to support families during the early stages of parenthood and foster strong community connections, ensuring families had the resources they needed to thrive. Her dedication and compassion have made a lasting impact on the local community.





# Chris Gilby

Chris has dedicated nearly 25 years to Maternal and Child Health, viewing her career as a privilege, particularly in the Enhanced MCH service where she worked closely with families during their most vulnerable moments.

She cherishes the beautiful friendships formed and the camaraderie with colleagues, marked by the wisdom, support, and shared laughter that made their work fulfilling.

As Chris embarks on her retirement, she wishes her colleagues all the best, passing the baton with heartfelt gratitude for the journey they've shared.





# Sue Doogan



Sue joined the Maternal & Child Health service at the Shire of Hastings in November 1993 and retired in July 2024, completing an impressive 30-year career.

She began as a centre-based Universal MCH Nurse before moving into an outreach role and later helping develop the first MCH Nurse Coordinator position at MPS, which she held for over 15 years.

Throughout her career, Sue embraced changes such as council amalgamation, compulsory competitive tendering, and the transition to electronic records, all while supporting and nurturing leadership potential in her colleagues.

Her dedication and adaptability have been appreciated by families and colleagues alike.



# Kristina Bedford (Tina)

Tina joined the Mornington Peninsula Shire Child and Family Health team just as the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Throughout her time with the team, Tina has proven to be a reliable and flexible casual staff member, always willing to embrace new challenges.

Her enthusiasm as a clinician is matched by her commitment to integrity and excellence.

Tina continuously seeks opportunities for personal growth and development, eagerly sharing her knowledge with colleagues and clients alike.

As she embarks on the next chapter of her life, we wish Tina all the best in her future endeavors!





# Rae Mckay

Rae has dedicated an impressive 45 years to nursing, with the last 8 years spent in Maternal and Child Health at Maribyrnong.

Her sharp-witted sense of humour, engaging storytelling, and kind heart are just a few of the many attributes that will be fondly remembered by colleagues and families alike.

In her retirement, Rae is enjoying travel and volunteering with animal welfare organisations, continuing to make a positive impact in her community.

Her legacy of compassion and laughter will be deeply missed!





# Julie Davies

Julie has dedicated an incredible 50 years to nursing, including 22 years as a Maternal and Child Health nurse in the universal service. A passionate advocate for breastfeeding, she has cared for multiple generations of families in her local community.

As she transitions into retirement, Julie looks forward to pursuing travel, spending quality time with family, and enjoying some well-deserved rest.

Her sense of fun and extensive knowledge will be deeply missed by colleagues and families alike, leaving a lasting legacy in the community she served.





# Ann Carey



Ann began her MCH career in 1998, instantly falling in love with community nursing and the continuity it offered.

The community has greatly benefited from Ann's compassion, sense of justice, kindness, and gentle spirit.

Having recently retired, she now looks forward to embracing more yoga, spending time in nature and by the ocean, and enjoying the company of her dogs in a peaceful life.

Ann's dedication and warmth will be fondly remembered by all who worked with her, and the families she supported along the way.



# Alastair Kleine

While not retired yet, Alistair, one of our few male MCH nurses, has relocated to Hindmarsh Island in South Australia—definitely their gain and our loss.

Not one to remain idle, Al is currently pursuing a teaching degree to complement his many other tertiary qualifications, eagerly anticipating his return to primary school classrooms next year.

His gentle, rational, and calm personality has left a lasting impression on both colleagues and families, and he will be fondly remembered for the positive impact he made during his time with us.





# Lorrie Tueno

Lorrie Tueno retired from City of Whittlesea in 2023.

Lorrie's quote on retiring was "I just had to come back, I missed it!" and is now working casually towards a second retirement.

All the families love Lorrie.. so it's lucky for us and then she has decided to work a little longer.





# Rosie Brock

Some of the City of Whittlesea MHCNs, past and present, visited Rosie Brock as she celebrated her 90th birthday recently.

Rosie worked at COW and other councils in the area over her very long career in MCH. One of her passions was supporting early literacy and encouraged parents to read to their babies from an early age.

She was also very interested in documenting cultural baby practices so she could understand CALD family's values, beliefs, and traditions around parenting.





# Liz Richardson

Liz has been a wonderful part of the team at Whittlesea.

Always with a smile and a warm approach that the families loved.





# Alice Crawford

Alice, was very much the heart and soul of MCH at City of Whittlesea for a very long time. Alice gave so much to the families in our area.





# Meg Pratt

Meg was a much-loved character at City of Whittlesea.

Always cheerful, Meg has an amazing whistle that can bring any group of noisy nurses in a meeting to attention, and always happy to talk about her golf.







# Mary Gill

Mary had a long and passionate career in MCH and school nursing in Vic. She was involved with the roll out of the Brigance training. The “Brigance Queen” title informed the uniform for the EMCH staff at Whittlesea on Mary’s last day. Mary is always fun and made the workplace always better.



# Carol Chapman



Carol Chapman retired after 13 years at City of Whittlesea.

She was a great constant to the families in Laurimar and is still missed by the families.



# Glenice Campbell

Life in retirement is busy.

Time is spent visiting and helping care for grandchildren that are 3 hours and 5 hours away from our home. Having more time to play lawn bowls as I am now able to attend more tournaments.

I am also able to go away on holidays as I please. Initially it was in an old caravan but as my husband then had health issues it is now in accommodation booked at the destination as well as going on cruises.

I have to admit that I am not missing work and I am enjoying retirement.





# Andrea Vaughn

After 44 years of nursing, including 13 years in Maternal and Child Health in Wangaratta, Andrea will retire in February 2025. She began her nursing career in 1981 at Wangaratta District Base Hospital and worked across two states, taking on roles from grassroots to senior management, and caring for individuals across all stages of life. In 2011, Andrea returned to Wangaratta to serve in Maternal and Child Health.

*"It has been a privilege and a joy to serve and support the families of this region and I have loved being part of a team of skilled and dedicated nurses and will miss them all".*





# Alison Connell



Alison Connell was an MCH Nurse at Hume council for an incredible 43 years!

Alison was a highly respected and valued member of the Hume Maternal and Child Health team, having worked in Sunbury and nearby communities, caring for mothers and babies over three generations, which Alison describes has been 'an honour and a privilege'

Alison's dedication for the community, her work, positive nature, and willingness to go above and beyond for her clients is missed by the MCH team, and especially missed by all families that have had the privilege of having Alison as their MCH nurse, supporting them unreservedly over multiple generations.



# Jo Pawson

Joanne began her career as a Maternal and Child Health Nurse with the City of Chelsea before moving on to other pursuits. She later returned to Kingston as a MCH reliever, known for her flexibility and reliability, working at all the centres.

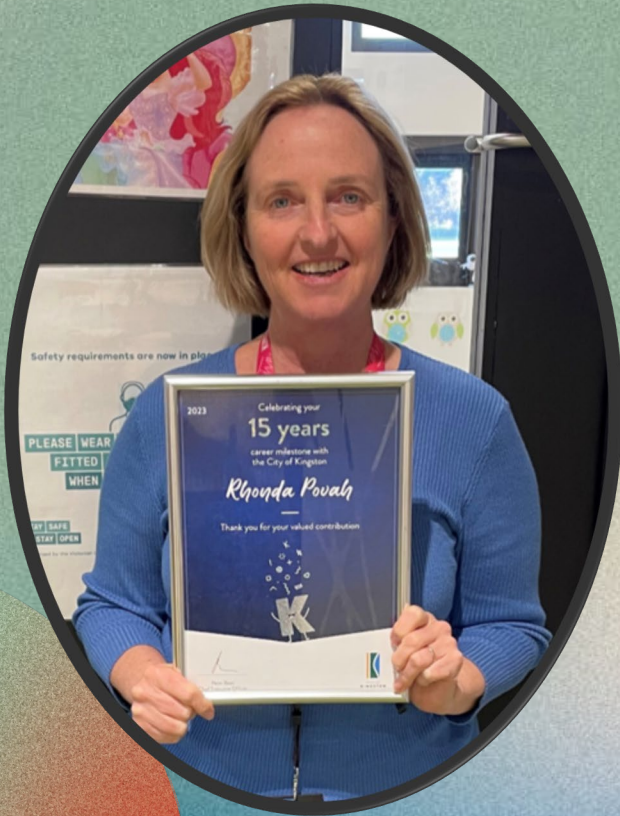
Joanne eventually joined the permanent staff, where she enjoyed sharing her knowledge and wisdom mentoring new graduates and supporting families in the community.

She is ready to hang up her boots at Christmas time!





# Rhonda Povah



Rhonda has worked for many years down on the Morning Peninsula before moving to her local community of Kingston.

She is very passionate about supporting families with young children and is a very experienced and passionate lactation consultant.

She has recently retired, trading her scales for her new passion - Her granddaughter and Golf. She has a mean swing!



# Claire Powell

Claire Powell has recently retired and is currently celebrating with a well-earned holiday pictured here in beautiful Norway, stating she is “Living the retirement dream”.

Claire has been a valued MCH staff member at Frankston City Council since 2013 (11 years' service) and is well respected for her kind and gentle manner and flexible attitude.”





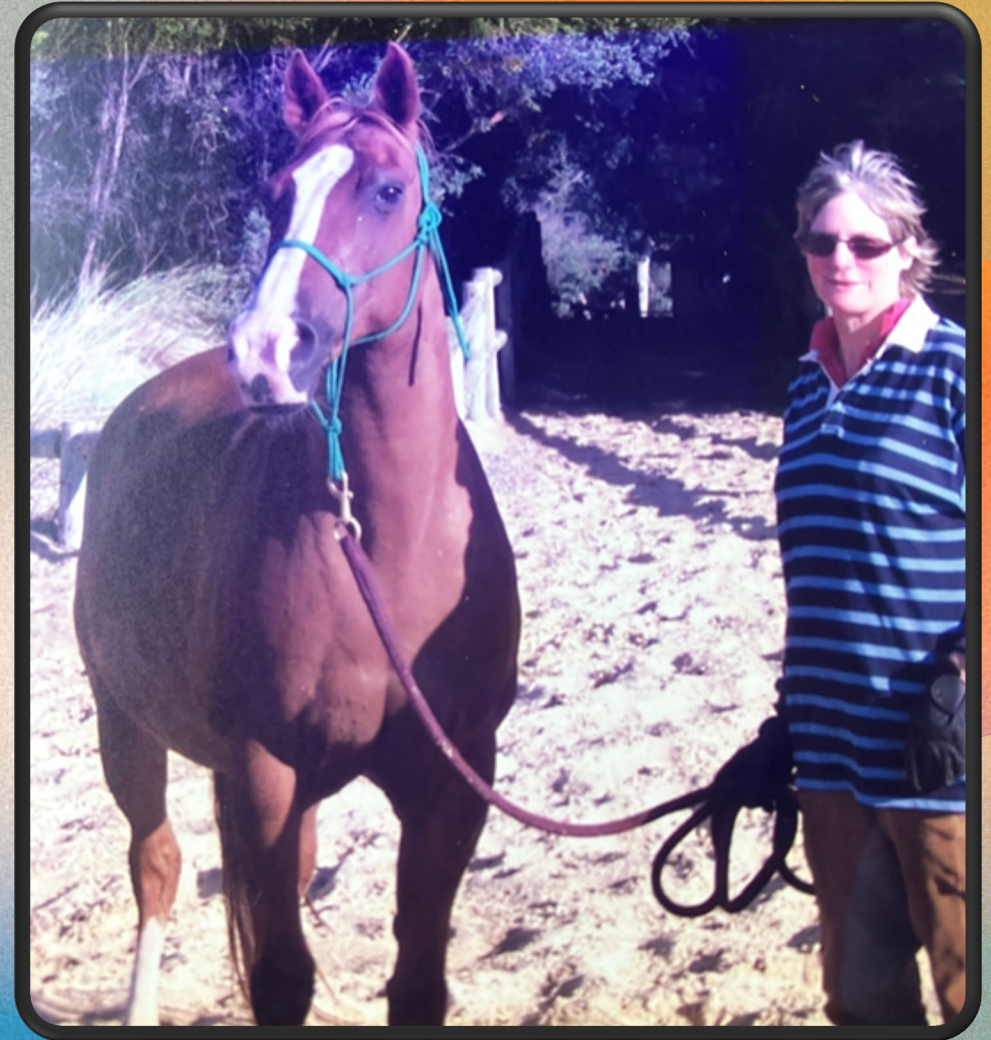
# Jan Wilson

Jan has had a long career in nursing and MCH. Too long to count apparently. Originally from New Zealand and an avid horse rider with a passion for competition and exhibition dressage.

She worked locally on Mornington Peninsula with many years in Enhanced before moving to Kingston. She always had interesting reason for taking leave eg the goat had a foot infection or needed a haircut. She retired once and then found she missed the work.

She came back in COVID casually and worked very hard. She is now ready to retire again before Christmas.

She will be missed because she cannot say “no” when we ring. Thanks Jan.





# Marion Fleming

Marion has worked for Frankston City Council for 15 years both in a Universal MCH capacity as well as in performing hospital liaison duties. Marion has been adaptable and risen to any challenge.

Marion has supported so many families in our community and helped children reach better outcomes. Marion has also been a font of knowledge, wisdom and experience for our team to which we appreciate and thank you.

Marions shared *“I am now enjoying having more time to do quilting, sewing, reading and of course plenty of lunches and catching up with friends. Having more time for family is also appreciated.”*





# Jill Ladek

Jill has been a valuable, flexible and ever reliable MCH casual reliever who brought a wealth of Midwifery experience to the role and was well respected for her kind attitudes.

We couldn't possibly count how many early phone calls to work Jill must have received over the last 10yrs working as a casual for the Frankston MCH Service.

Thank you for your commitment, dedication and flexibility in supporting Frankston's families, our team and the MCH Service. Your positive demeanour, can-do attitude and your experience will be missed.





# Margaret Gibson



Marg retired in 2023 after an outstanding 62-year career in nursing. Marg trained as an infant welfare nurse in 1967 at Queen Elizabeth and worked as a MCH nurse in municipalities across Southeast Melbourne and Papua New Guinea. The final 37 years of her career were spent at Bayside where she witnessed many changes over these years such as the introduction of computer-based documentation systems and has provided multi-generational care to families. Congratulations Marg.



# Geraldine O'Meara

Trained in Ireland in General and Midwifery and worked as a midwife there before travelling to Australia where Geraldine worked in PICU in the UK and Australia before training in Child and Family health in Perth WA. After moving to Melbourne, she worked at RDNS in maternal and child health. From there she worked at Brimbank, Ballarat whilst studying a masters in psychotherapy and counselling. And then Melton for the last 20 years.





# Helen Solohub

Helen joined Glen Eira Council as a MCH Nurse on 28/6/1982 and retired on 20/10/2024

Over the past 44 years at Glen Eira Helen contributed to the team in many ways including:-

- Health and Safety Representative
- One of the first nurse MCH immunisers at Glen Eira
- Glen Eira subcommittee groups
- Preceptor for MCH Students

Helen worked across the MCH service including Elsternwick, Caulfield, Glenhuntly and Murrumbeena





The background features a central gradient of blue, green, and yellow. Overlaid on this are several large, semi-transparent circles in shades of orange, yellow, and green, creating a layered, abstract effect.

# **Celebrating commitment: Acknowledging Longevity**





# Erena Fonseka

Erena joined Glen Eira in October 1988 and has worked here since. She was a student supervised by Helen Solohub, who retired October 2024 after over 42 years.

Erena was one of the first MCH nurse immunisers and contributed to the team through many working sub committees over the past 35 years.

Erena worked in several of the Glen Eira MCH centres including Glen Huntly, McKinnon, Caulfield North and Bentleigh





# Jan Roughley

Started MCH journey 1993. Have been fortunate to have wonderful mentors and continue to learn from the families and MCH nurses I meet and work with.

Embracing opportunities in MCH as a universal, outreach, EMCH nurse, IBCLC, Team Leader and Coordinator. Chairperson of MCH Special Interest Group.

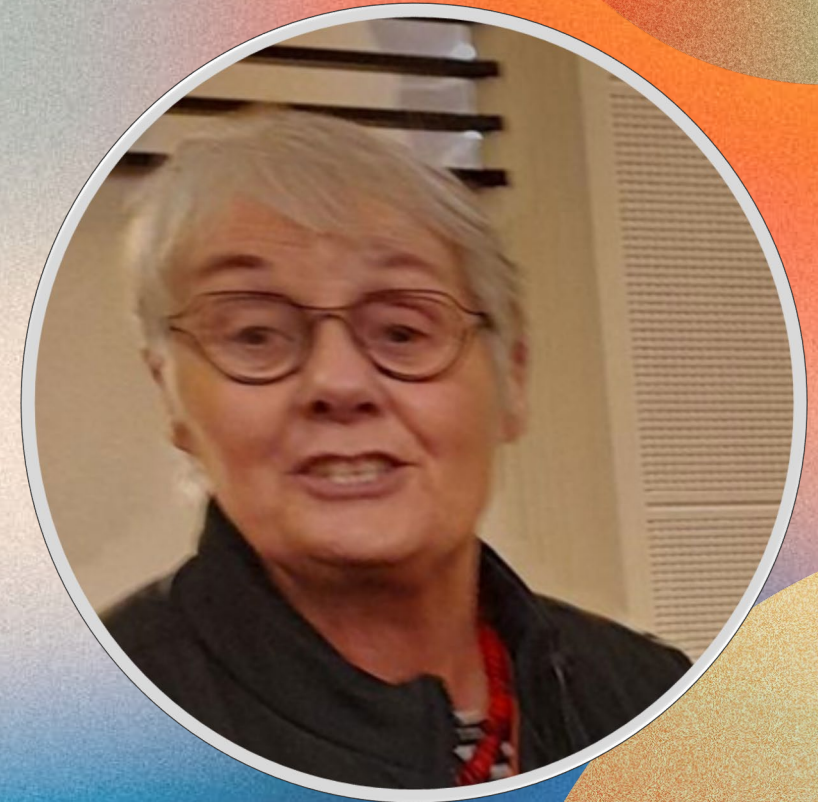


# Trish McKerrell

Trish has worked for Banyule MCH for more than 31 years in clinican and leadership roles.

Her unwavering passion for ensuring continuity of care between services has always aimed at making every family's journey as smooth as possible.

Whether in care team meetings or advocating for the role of MCH nurses, her commitment to supporting vulnerable children and their families has truly made a lasting impact.





# Julie Osman

In November 2025, we celebrate Julie's remarkable 40 years of dedicated service families and children.

Before joining the team, Julie worked as a Reliever for The Health Department, gaining invaluable experience across Victoria in locations like Ballarat, Colac, Daylesford, Fawkner Park, Whittlesea, and East Melbourne.

Her career in Maternal and Child Health has been fulfilling, diverse, and at times challenging, but always filled with the joy of making a difference in people's lives.







# Ceri Martin - Monash

Ceri is a passionate and dedicated Maternal child Health Nurse.

Ceri started with the City of Casey working there for 9 years before moving to the City Monash. Ceri has been with Monash for over 18 years working in universal MCH, Enhanced MCH and is part of the Monash leadership team.

Ceri is key passionate about supporting the next generation of MCH nurses taking on a preceptor role for students and a mentor role for new graduates. Congratulations Ceri on an amazing MCH career.



# Delwyn Cronin

Delwyn started her MCH career in Essendon in 1984 before moving to Camberwell/Boroondara, where she has enjoyed working for the past 32 years.

Her unwavering dedication and heartfelt commitment to the families and children in her care have made a profound impact on the community.

We extend our deepest gratitude for your years of service, compassion, and the countless lives you have touched along the way!

Your legacy of kindness and support will be cherished for years to come.





# Helen Stevens



Helen's MCH career began in the 1990s, working in roles such as Domiciliary RDNS MCH Nurse, parenting centres, and mother-baby units. After moving to private consulting, she focused on supporting families with dysregulation and developed an interest in infant mental health.

Her work has taken her across Australia and internationally, where she has presented, researched, consulted, and supervised.

Currently, Helen is involved in research, lecturing at RMIT, consulting, and training, with a key role at the Solihull Approach-Australia Governance Centre. Despite attempts to retire, her passion for MCH keeps her engaged in the field.



# Lynne Herbert

Congratulations to Lynne on 30 years of service with Yarra Ranges. She spent 27 years supporting families in the Hills, primarily in Monbulk after the Sassafras centre closed. Over the years, Lynne has worked at several centres, benefiting countless families across the Shire with her extensive knowledge. For 20 years, she has also provided breastfeeding support as a lactation consultant and is an infant massage therapist.

“Lynne is a great resource of knowledge for all, especially an exceptional mentor and role model for students”, “the empathy displayed towards mothers and their children is exceptional”, “Lynne often goes above and beyond to support her clients and other staff”. Lynne was described as being a community icon during her time in the Monbul/Sassafras area and she epitomises what it is to be a Maternal and Child Health Nurse.







# Carolyn Ikin

Carolyn trained as an infant welfare nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and very fond memories of her experience there.

She has been working at Bayside for the past 35 years, and finds it an honour to continue to support the Bayside community and support the new generation of the MCH workforce.



# Leanne Sheeran



MCH Nurse 34 yrs, IBCLC 34 yrs, RM 40 yrs, RN 45 yrs

## Best MCH Clinical Experiences:

- Managing rural MCH clinics in Mitchell Shire, in up to 3 towns at a time.
- Supporting first time mothers, facilitating parent groups including for women with PND.
- Seeing families with their 3rd and 4th child, Working in EMCH program
- Current Role: Program Manager Child & Family Health Nursing, RMIT University Bundoora since 2011.
- Quote: 'Working collaboratively to prepare future MCH Nurses'





## Janet Shortal – 36+ years

I followed in the footsteps of my Aunty who was a Baby Health Sister at the Haven Fitzroy in the 60's. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in MCH at Altona & Footscray before amalgamation, Five Dock ( inner west ) NSW 2 years, Singapore 4 years, Yarra, Boroondara in the Coordinator role now for 16 years.



# Von Macalister

Von has had a diverse nursing career, including roles as a nurse, midwife, and with Air Ambulance, providing emergency care and patient transfers.

After transitioning to Maternal and Child Health, she moved from Hobsons Bay to Kingston 25 years ago, working across several centres.

Von enjoys supporting families through the challenges of parenthood and loves both her work and being part of the team.

Congratulations to Yvonne!





# Melissa Belli



After 23 years at Knox MCH, 9 years as team leader and MCH coordinator, Melissa Belli is moving on to 'sunder' pastures-the MCH line.

Mel has been a strong, compassionate and supportive leader with a great sense of humour.

We will miss you and your signature Gorman outfits Mel.



# Wendy Fernandez



Wendy began her career as a casual Maternal and Child Health Nurse at Casey and Dandenong before securing a permanent position at the City of Greater Dandenong.

Over 29 years, she worked across various MCH centres and within the Enhanced MCH team.

In 2011, Wendy became a Team Leader, focusing on protocols, processes, and governance, but later returned to clinical work while continuing to contribute through the CGD MCH Advisory Group.

Wendy enjoys being part of a great team, finding it a privilege to support families through the diverse and sometimes challenging journey of parenthood.



# Hannah Hsu

Hannah recently celebrated 30 years of service at the City of Greater Dandenong. Her passion for Maternal and Child Health began as a 6-year-old, inspired by a nurse visiting a mother and baby.

Throughout her career, Hannah has found joy and fulfillment working with a diverse, multicultural community. She feels privileged to empower parents and help them recognise their strengths.

Despite the challenges, including supporting families through complex issues like family violence, Hannah remains dedicated to her work, finding purpose in positively impacting the lives of countless families.





# Di Silk



## Di's 27 Years of Service in Maternal & Child Health

- Strong focus on engaging refugee families, establishing a Refugee Health program
- Visits newly arrived families with the Dad's Support worker to introduce MCH servicesCollaborates with the Community Engagement Officer for the Kindergarten (CALD) project
- Worked with Lisa Arnott to re-invent group Key Age & Stage Consultations (18m, 2y, 3 ½ y)
- Contributed to setting up the first MCH Centre in Hanoi, Vietnam





# Julie James

I've seen many changes since starting work in MCH 35 years ago first as a reliever in various councils including regional Victoria and then in a permanent position with the City of Boroondara. The consistent thread of my career has been the privilege of supporting families through the challenging journey of early parenting.



# Ann Ferrie

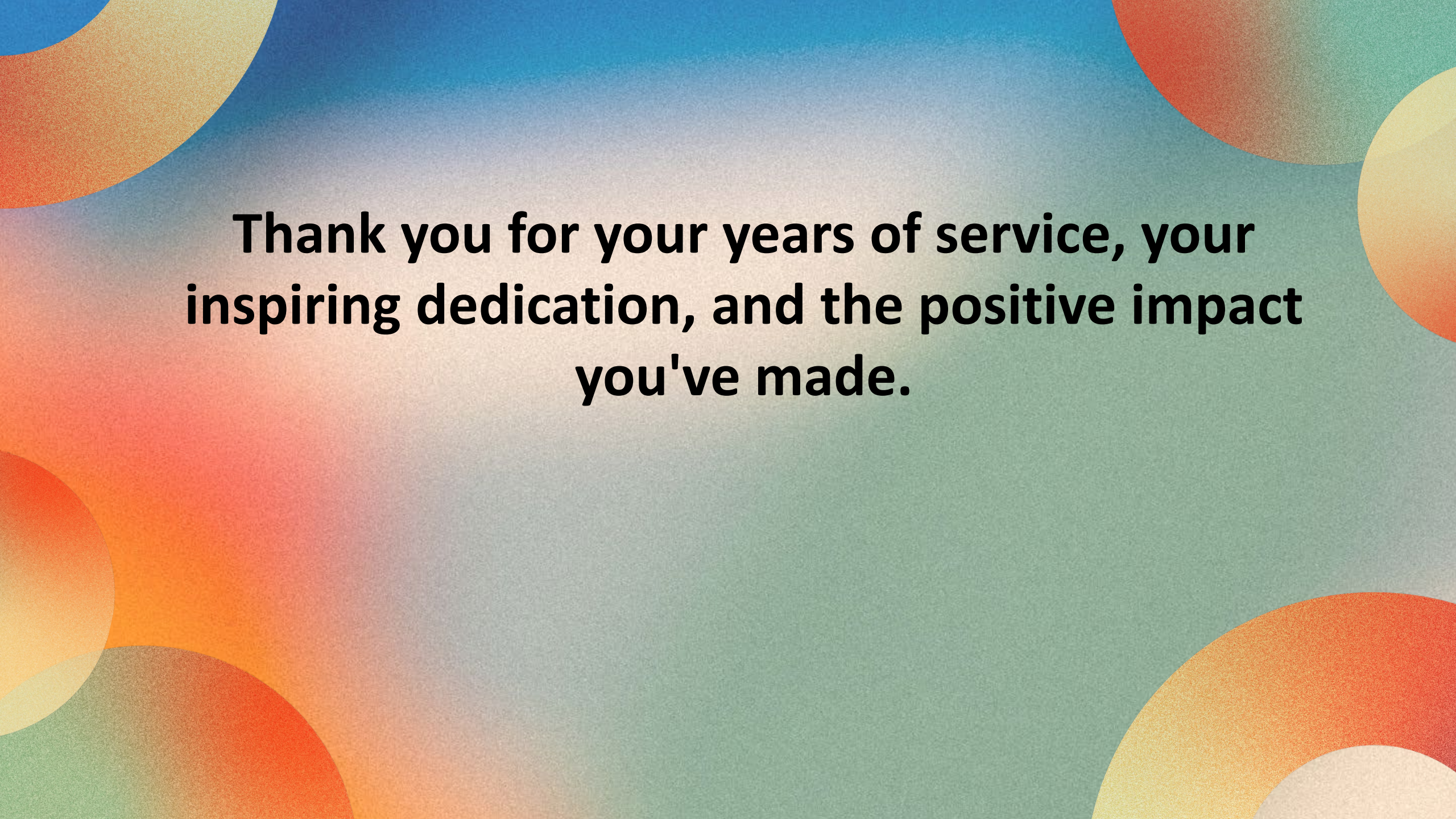
Ann has had the privilege of working with families in Maternal and Child Health for over 35 years.

Her primary goal has always been to ensure that parents leave feeling listened to, supported, encouraged, and educated on their parenting journey.

Ann's dedication to fostering positive relationships with families has made a significant impact on the community.







**Thank you for your years of service, your  
inspiring dedication, and the positive impact  
you've made.**