

Jenny Dodd

Chief Executive Officer,
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I started my career as a marketer working for a number of Australian businesses. While my career was going well in those years the conditions were not very flexible. So when I decided to start a family, I decided to transition to education. I completed a Graduate Diploma of Education while working in private and community training organisations until I secured a casual teaching position with the Canberra Institute of Technology on just two hours per week. From there, over twenty years, I held many positions including Director Marketing, Director Education, and in 2013, Chief Executive Officer. In mid-2014 I moved to TAFE Queensland as General Manager Gold Coast. I became CEO of TasTAFE in February 2018. I think one of the core messages of my story is to grasp opportunity when it comes. But also, be ready for the opportunity because sometimes you can grasp it too early, when the other demands of your life aren't aligned. At each stage of my career, I was ready to take a next level of responsibility.

To be a good leader, I believe you need to know your business. You need to read about it, you need to write about it, and you need to be prepared to present about it. I see myself as first and foremost a professional in education. You also need a sense of purpose. Every day that I come to work I do something that I think is important. We change lives in vocational education and training and we

work with industry to make sure they've got the workforce they need. That to me, is fundamental.

You also need people around you who know their bit of the business. You need to trust your team, and you need to delegate. You have to know who you can trust, I'm very upfront with the people I work with and trust. Be prepared to work hard and to gain knowledge and qualifications where you need to. People need to see you doing that, but you also need to be authentic in how you do that. Do the things you say you're going to do, and only do the things you're prepared to live with.

You also need to listen, and listen deeply to others, absorb information and then pave the way for what needs to happen. Remember to be kind in how you deal with others, and also as you work hard, be kind to yourself. These were lessons I learnt later in my career.

The best part of my job is working with a group of people who share the same purpose, which is providing vocational education and training. There is meaning in my job, and there is meaning in the jobs of the 800 staff here at TasTAFE—we all share that common purpose. This is a great place to work. You can be pretty authentic when you have that sense of purpose.

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