



After working 18 years in retail plumbing supplies, Brisbane's Paul Sharp has changed careers to become a nurse educator.

The 44-year-old Endorsed Enrolled Nurse is now delivering nursing subjects for the Southbank Institute of Technology, where he studied for his Diploma of Nursing in 2008-09.

Paul, originally from Manchester in the United Kingdom, decided to change career paths after a working holiday in the UK, where he picked up part-time work as a personal carer for a nursing agency, carrying out home care in night shifts.

"I really, really enjoyed it," he said.

Paul returned to his work in Australia in bathroom design and sales, and five years later he decided to make the move into the nursing sector.

"Perhaps it was the fact that I was approaching 40...I just needed a change," he said.

"I decided to take the leap and do some study. It was the best thing I ever did."

Paul studied for 18 months at SBIT's new Health and Science faculty to gain his qualification before moving into the aged care sector, where he conducted emergency response training for new staff and inductions.

"It really started from there...that really gave me a taste for facilitating and being in the classroom environment."

With a Certificate 3 in Aged Care, Certificate 4 in Training and Assessment and Certificate 4 in Workplace Health and Safety, Paul is now helping to up-skill aged care workers.

Paul hopes to one day embark on further studies to become a Registered Nurse but, for the moment, he can't believe how much his life has changed and the world of opportunities that now await.

"If someone had of said to me five years ago that I would now be delivering nursing subjects, I wouldn't have believed it," he said.

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