

# Strong Identity – Proud future

## Daphne Bell



### *How did you get to where you are today?*

I got to where I am today because I thought that I could make a difference. I saw too much hardship in my growing up and I wanted it to stop. Because of all the negativity in my life, I used that and turned it to positive energy. I worked hard. Today, I work as an AEA\* at Crawford Public School, in classrooms with students and also liaising with parents and community members so that we can work together for the kids. I do the jobs I do because I want to see our children and community strive for better opportunities. I want the children to make a difference as well, to know who they are and the importance of that – who they are, where they come from and most of all, where they are going and how they are going to get there.

### *What do you value?*

My children and grandchildren inspire me and give me the energy to keep going. Their love, caring, support and experiences in life make me want to make a difference for them. I love the talents and the gifts they have to offer – the gifts they are, as people. I find I'm a very rich woman because I've got a family, a roof over my head, a job and wonderful people in my life. And honestly, I don't want anything else except for things to get better for all Australians.

## Maureen Wenzel



### *How did you get where you are today?*

That came about because I was a single parent and there was an AEA\* in the school who awoke a sense of pride and culture in my son and the changes in that boy were amazing. He turned out to be the most beautiful Aboriginal dancer for the school – it changed his whole attitude about being proud about who he was and proud of his culture. I wanted to pay something back – I felt I wanted to pay a debt. I wanted to give something equally precious to make another mother feel the way I did. I volunteered in the school which led to me gaining employment in the Department of Education in teaching, mentoring and role model positions. They were the avenues for me to start giving things back.

\*AEA: Aboriginal Education Assistant