

**FIRST NATIONS
VETERAN EMPLOYMENT CAMPAIGN**

**CASE STUDY:
RHIANNON
BUSH**



Rhiannon Bush is a proud Aboriginal woman from Normanton, Queensland, who now lives in Melbourne, Victoria. Rhiannon joined the Australian Army as a marine specialist after she graduated from high school in 2007. Originally, Rhiannon's plan was to serve her minimum time, to develop some skills and then create a career for herself in the civilian world. However, she found her passion through service and ended up staying in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) for 14 years.

The ADF taught Rhiannon how to lead large groups of people. When she was offered a place as a specialist recruiter in the ADF, the role allowed her to work closely with community and assist in the development of the next generation of service personnel. This role helped Rhiannon realise how passionate she was about working with, and for her people.

Once Rhiannon realised that her lifelong passion was to work with her Mob and uplift community, she began her transition out of the ADF. Rhiannon began mentoring participants in the Indigenous Development and Employment Program at JY Australia. She emphasised how JY Australia assisted her to make a smooth transition and that their transition program helped her to better understand and utilise the services at her disposal.

Rhiannon is now the General Manager of Indigenous Programs at JY Australia where she uses the skills gained during her ADF career to promote and develop mentoring approaches for Indigenous veterans in high-performance workplaces. Some of the skills Rhiannon has translated from military service to the civilian world include managing people, professionalism, teamwork and initiative.

Rhiannon urges any organisation who is considering hiring a veteran to take a chance. She says most veterans have unreal skill sets. Her message to organisations is if you do take the chance and nurture veterans, there will be impeccable results.

CONTACT

If you need any other assets, formats or would like further information, please contact: information@coxinallridgeway.com.au or visit the Veteran Employment Program's website: <https://www.veteranemployment.gov.au/>



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