



## **Julianna Di Benedetto (nee Micelotta), class of 1991**

Julianna was interviewed by her daughter, Carla Di Benedetto, who is a current year 12 student, 2021.



### **Did you set out with a career plan during your high school years?**

No, at that point in time, young women didn't have the opportunities that we have today. We were stereotyped into office roles, teaching or nursing, however, there were the occasional girls who went into science based jobs. When I finished year 12, I enrolled myself into an administration course, at Holmes College in the city and through this, I was able to work for the Department of Justice.

### **Where has your career path taken you in terms of connecting with wider organisations, meeting people of varying cultures; locally and internationally?**

My career path has taken me to many places that I didn't think I was capable of achieving. I successfully became an employee of the Department of Justice, Supreme Court Melbourne. In this position, I worked for the Prothonotary who is in charge of the Supreme Court. I also worked for Judges, and was given the opportunity to learn more about the Justice System. I worked in this field for 10 years in various roles, meeting Jeff Kennet, Steve Bracks and worked with Martin Foley who is currently the Minister for Health. I then moved on to working for the Governor of Pentridge Prison where I was his executive assistant.



### **What were the significant milestones that have impacted your life journey so far?**

One significant milestone in my life so far has been my two trips to Europe, touring most of Europe by the age of 19 and experiencing lifelong memories that I will cherish forever.

Another milestone is how at such a young age (20 years), I was so career driven that I focused all my attention on becoming successful. I loved my job, working in the Department of Justice, as I would attend Parliament and assist in writing the Minister's briefing and ensuring all of his correspondence to his constituents was at a high standard.

My final and most significant milestone is having my two children. They have brought me so much love, joy and happiness to my life and I couldn't imagine it any other way.

**What advice would you give to current students?**

My advice to current students would be to make the most of any opportunity you are given because it opens many doors to a career path you may not know you have a passion for yet. Mercy College gave me the skills to have the confidence and the courage to do what I thought wasn't possible as a young woman. Don't take your school days for granted as they are the best days.