

Second life: "Now it's my time!"

It's not uncommon for many women to put their own careers on hold while their children are young and their spouses are building their own business/career. Laurie Koranski, a dentist's wife and former practice owner, got a second chance at a career she is passionate about when she and her husband sold their busy Jimboomba practice

My husband and I owned a practice in Jimboomba, Queensland, for 25 years. It was a beautiful, purpose-built, five-surgery facility. We set a very high standard for quality dental work and we were very proud of the successful business we had built and the services we provided to our local community.

Why did you sell?

Andrew was feeling burnt out. He loved the craftsmanship of dentistry, but the business side was very demanding and a good work/life balance was elusive. Andrew was exhausted.

As for me, I was part of the practice for 21 years as a nurse, practice manager, book keeper and director. I loved working in the business while the children were small, but once our kids settled into high school, I was ready to move on to my own career.

It just felt like the time was right to find something new and, one day, it came in the form of a controversial decision by a power company to utilise the local river as a power easement. My property wasn't directly affected, but does back onto the river. Several residents formed a community action group and I agreed to join them as a spokesperson. We successfully advocated to have seven of the proposed river crossings reduced to three. This experience led me to work with local, state and federal politicians. Community leaders kept saying, "Laurie we need more community-minded people like you in Council".

I enjoyed the experience of making a positive change in the community and wanted to continue to do so. I decided the best way to do this was to get involved politically.

Initially, Andrew wasn't enthusiastic about me getting involved in politics. I called a family meeting and my kids



said they wanted me to go for it. It is important to me that my son has strong female influences in his life and I wanted to show my daughter that women can, and should, follow their dreams.

Both parents having demanding careers wasn't an option for us, so we decided to sell the practice so I could pursue a career

Name: Dr Andrew and Laurie Koranski
Practice Owned: Quintessential Dental, Jimboomba, Queensland

in local politics. It was with a heavy heart that we left our beloved practice behind but, like all things, it had a season and it was time to move on. We called Practice Sale Search and they helped with everything. They marketed our practice, showed people through after hours and introduced us to a few buyers. They were there to hold our hand throughout the entire process and helped us navigate a few hurdles along the way.

Was changing careers hard?

After the sale, Andrew dropped down to working part-time as a dentist and mentoring at the university once a week. He is very happy not to be the boss anymore. He does not miss having to manage resources, staff and financials and is very pleased to turn up at work and do what he loves best - clinical dentistry, without all the responsibility of running the business. Andrew has greater time to devote to our children and he is more involved with our family. He has pursued his love of bushwalking and the outdoors and has even started cooking! On holidays, Andrew can now completely switch off, which was impossible when we had a business to run.

As for me, I decided to run for Council in the City of Logan. Logan is the fifth largest council in Australia. It was my first campaign and it was a tough run - I must have door-knocked between 2000-3000 houses. The practice settled in February 2016 and I was elected to office a month later.

Life is very busy; I am now halfway through my first four-year term and I have



kicked a lot of goals in my area, including opening new parks and road and footpath upgrades. We are currently building a sport and community hub, which is due to open in August. By far, the highlight of my job is working with local residents and businesses. We have a community spirit second to none here in Logan and that was demonstrated during the 2016 floods. I am incredibly proud to have been elected to serve the people of Logan. There is a tremendous amount of growth in my electorate and that presents an array of challenges and opportunities. I love being a change-maker.

Even though my job can be stressful, I don't feel nearly as anxious as I did when I owned my own practice. Back then I was very conscious of having mouths to feed and making ends meet. Many professionals' partners put their careers on hold while raising a family. Once we were presented with the opportunity for me to pursue my own career goals, selling the practice became an easier decision to make. If we had waited until we were older, I may not have had the time or resources to take on this new challenge. I also know I would have looked back and regretted the chances I didn't take.

For many years, we were very proud to provide high quality dentistry with friendly service to the community. We will always carry that with us. But it was time. Now, in my mid-40s, I finally have my shot at launching my career.

I was the woman who stood behind my husband for many years, now it's my time.

Are you ready for your second life? If you're interested in selling your practice, or want to have a confidential, obligation-free chat, call Practice Sale Search on 1300-282-042 or info@practicesalesearch.com.au