

**Deborah Vasta (nee Leighton)**

**Magistrate**

My name's Deborah Vasta. I came to Stuartholme here from 1981 to 1985.

I used to enjoy advocating on behalf of people. So enjoy standing up and putting my best case forward for a defendant who had been charged with offences and I think you do your best as you could but you weren't the final decision maker. I'm really enjoying being in the position now where I'm making decisions about, that will affect people's lives for years to come, it will affect their children's lives. It's a huge responsibility. It's a real privilege to be in that position.

I think Stuartholme, the Stuartholme education or the Scared Heart education is one where first of all you're treated like an individual and you're educated as an individual. Everybody's encouraged to, I think use their own talents. We're all different. We've all got talents and things to offer. And we're encouraged to push ourselves to the limit, to not be afraid to try, to go out on a limb and to be the best you can be. I think that's something Stuartholme really gave me, was not be afraid to push the boundaries. You know that you can make a difference.