

**Michelle Edwards**

Currently employed by Gold Coast Health in the role of Carer Consultant in the Consumer, Carer and Family Participation Team within the Directorate of Mental Health and Specialist Services. Also currently employed by the Mental Health Coordinating Council as an external assessor for the Cert 4 in Mental Health Peer Work.

Michelle has lived experience as a consumer and carer and has previously worked (in paid and unpaid roles) for many years as a Consumer peer worker and advocate. Michelle has been working directly with families and carers for the last 4 years as well as advocating for family and carer inclusive mental health services on the Gold Coast. Michelle has really enjoyed connecting with families and carers and gaining increased overall understanding of the impacts of mental illness by working from a different perspective.

Michelle considers herself extremely fortunate to have been supported by Gold Coast Health and the National Mental Health Commission to study the Cert 4 in Mental Health Peer Work through the "Champions" project and is enjoying developing new skills as a trainer and assessor of this important qualification. Michelle is especially grateful to all her peers for the support and encouragement during her study. Michelle is qualified to train and assess both consumer and carer peer work units.