

Meet Mark Branson

It was such an honour to be able to serve the nation for 22 years, and it is something that I will always look back on with a sense of pride and achievement. I enlisted in July 1997, in the hope of getting some direction, and purpose in my life; what I ended up getting was so much more...I ended up receiving the best life skills education that you could ask for. During my service, I was so fortunate to be able to work alongside some incredible and inspirational leaders. Leaders who created an environment that enabled me to reach my potential, as both a soldier and a person.



Unfortunately, I had to discharge in October 2019 (due to some serious injuries, and a lot of wear and tear on my body). My plans post discharge, was to spend some much-needed quality time with my family, and reconnect with them (after many years of absence), and also undergo a few rounds of surgery (so that I would be able to physically handle working again). However, all my plans, and the plans of almost everybody else were thrown into disarray, with the onset of COVID. In a very short space of time, I went from being a defence member and having lots of freedom, to being jobless and locked down in a house, whilst the world was plunged into panic and uncertainty....and a shortage of toilet paper.

By July (2020), whilst still looking for employment, I received a text from a mate of mine telling me to have a look at the Campbelltown City Council website, as there is a job being advertised that I might be interested in. I had a quick look at the job ad and decided to ring the hiring manager, and this is where my luck finally changed. The hiring manager has been a defence spouse for 20 years, and she had a very good understanding on all aspects of the Military, especially the organisational structure, and the unique skills and attributes that ex-service personnel have. She was able to answer the questions I had on Local Government, by describing it in military terms and highlighting the similarities between the two organisations; which gave me the confidence to submit my application.

Campbelltown City Council (Local Government) is so similar to the Military, and that is because both organisations are about serving. Campbelltown City Councils WHY (Simon Sinek's Golden Circles) is about serving its local community; everything we do is about improving the lifestyle of our community. At Campbelltown City Council, they recognise the unique skills and attributes demonstrated by service personnel in their service to our country, because these are the same skills and attributes that are valued by Council in serving our local community. And because of this reason, all the skills and attributes developed in the Military are transferable to Local Government. Teamwork, Leadership (Agile and Strategic), Communication, Problem-solving, Flexibility and Adaptability, Mentoring and Conflict Resolution are just some skills, that ALL Military personnel possess, that are so highly sort after by Local Government.

The reason why Campbelltown City Council is a logical choice for service personnel who are transitioning, is:

- Campbelltown City Council values the skills and attributes that Military personnel possess
- Both organisations are about serving, and as such, skills and attributes are transferable

- Campbelltown City Council is educating their hiring managers and HR staff about the Military, so to better understand these unique skills
- Campbelltown City Council has developed and implemented a Veterans program, again highlighting their support of Veterans
- Campbelltown City Council honestly cares about their staff, something I have seen first-hand.

The reason why my transition from Military to Local Government has been so successful is because firstly, I had a hiring manager that understood the Military, and used this knowledge when viewing my resume and providing me with constructive feedback. Secondly, Campbelltown City Council values all veterans and the unique skillset they bring to the organisation. Thirdly, Campbelltown City Council cares about all their staff, they view us as family. And lastly, I get to serve the community again.

Mark Bransdon

Learning and Development Officer