



Myotherjob

Queensland Firebirds defender - Clare McMeniman

Clare McMeniman's first love has always been netball but it doesn't always pay the bills. She tells **Alex Murdoch** how she juggles working as a speech pathologist with being part of the Queensland Firebirds team

I MANAGED to get a year-long contract with the Royal Brisbane Hospital, so I'm over the moon.

I work with people of all ages, but mainly older people who are recovering from strokes and need to learn to speak again.

It's hard, very hard, fitting the Firebirds in with a full-time career or job, especially since the sport has become semi-professional. Some girls are able to have netball as their sole career option, while other girls obviously cannot.

You have to work around different timetables and things, but so far (for me) things have been good.

You just have to keep the lines of communication open - my work has to be understanding and Rose (coach Roselee Jencke) has to be understanding of my commitment to work as well.

I am passionate about speech pathology and netball, so everybody has to come to the party to make it work and I'm endeavouring to keep up the highest level of work in both settings.

From a leave perspective the Royal Brisbane Hospital have been incredibly understanding, and they've changed my hours so I start a little bit earlier and can finish a little bit earlier and get to training on time.

