



Be brave Dubbo, broaden your options for big future



A friend of Stef Bevan told her she was “so brave” to move to Dubbo - six hours away from home in Sydney, but that makes her laugh.

The young allied health professional has found plenty of compensations in the move.

Ms Bevan uprooted herself to take up a speech pathology position with the Cerebral Palsy Alliance in January.

She hasn't looked back and finds her work “really fulfilling” and it also places her in a front-row seat to see what the city will need in 25 years time.

Ms Bevan, as a newcomer, is one of the people Dubbo City Council wants to have their say in Dubbo 2036, the community strategic plan.

Up the top of the list on what she likes about Dubbo, Ms Bevan has placed the “short commute to work”.

“Coming from Sydney I had a one-and-a-half-hour commute in peak hour traffic,” she said. “I'm now loving a 10-

minute walk.”

She also values the “sense of community”.

“In Sydney it can be different - so many people and so much going on,” she said.

“People seem a bit more relaxed here.”

The Dubbo office of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance services a large area of western NSW and many of the clients have complex needs.

Working with children with disabilities and their families, she has noticed the need for medical services is not always adequately met.

“They're talking about getting a GP - in Sydney that's not an issue,” she said.

“People say doctors' books are closed or they have to go to a medical centre.

“That's a real difference.”

Ms Bevan believed that challenge could be answered in meeting the challenge of retaining Generation Y to

Dubbo in the future.

“From discussions I've had it seems lots of young people want to leave the area,” she said.

“It would also be great if

Dubbo could attract more professionals to provide much needed services to the area.

“Encourage kids to get into professions such as medicine and allied health, maybe providing scholarships for training with a position in Dubbo provided at the end (could make the vision a reality).”

Ms Bevan has welcomed visitors from Sydney to her new home, with positive results.

“Now one has said, ‘Wow, this is a really nice place’, they're surprised by how big Dubbo is,” she said.

But the distance has put one more item on her wishlist for the future.

“Having flights to places other than Sydney would be brilliant,” she said.

“Encourage kids to get into professions such as medicine and allied health, maybe providing scholarships.”

STEF BEVAN



MY SAY

Name: Stef Bevan

Age: 28

Address:

Occupation: Speech pathologist

Lived in Dubbo: Since January

Vision: Retain young people and provide adequate health services by educating Dubbo's own



Relatively new Dubbo resident Stef Bevan says better access to health professionals needs to be a focus.
Photo: BELINDA SOOLE