

# Study fuels passion to support

VIVIEN Biggs swore she'd never return to university after she completed her nursing training in Sydney almost 20 years ago.

But a passion for caring for neurosurgery patients, developed after two decades of bedside nursing, changed her mind.

Earlier this month, Biggs graduated with a Masters in Nursing Science (Nurse



Practitioner) from the Queensland University of Technology.

It was a Queensland Cancer Council support meeting that triggered her desire to go back to university.

"I realised that for patients in this (neurosurgery) area, there were lots of gaps in the service," she says.

"Patients often go from surgery to oncology and don't understand the full implications of their diagnosis and the goals of their treatment.

"Their symptoms can be managed poorly because each specialist, is only looking after one aspect of the patient."

As a nurse practitioner, Biggs works collaboratively with other health professionals to help fill gaps by co-ordinating services.

"I'm right there at the very beginning when they are diagnosed and I follow them throughout this journey," she says.

Biggs is employed by BrizBrain and Spine.

The group of private neurosurgeons supported her studies financially as well as with time off and mentoring.

**More info [www.hlth.qut.edu.au/nrs/study/careers](http://www.hlth.qut.edu.au/nrs/study/careers) or ph: 3138 3824.**