



Department of Lands

Reliable from the ground up

ICDL'S SILENT ACHIEVER

A gentle person with endless determination, Youg-Joo Byun, Acting Conversion Officer for the NSW Department of Lands, is enjoying the benefits of being an active participant in the IT world.

Born in South Korea, Young-Joo developed a high fever at the age of five and lost her ability to hear.

Through the support of her mother who believed that sign Language was old fashioned, Young-Joo was sent to an oral and hearing school in Korea where she learned to speak Korean and listen by reading people's lips.

At age 16, Young-Joo and her family immigrated to Australia where she set about learning English and Auslan (Australian sign language). At age 18, she put her creative and artistic skills to the test and studied tracing at TAFE.

Despite her passion for life, Young-Joo admits to finding many ordinary situations in life frustrating. Things like waiting for a train and not knowing what's being said over the loud speaker, or seeing other people chatting and laughing and yearning to enjoy the joke. As a deaf person in a hearing world it's easy to feel left out.

More recently, Young-Joo embarked on the ICDL to certify her basic computer skills and improve her IT literacy.

Young-Joo studied for the ICDL at the Deaf Education Network in Sydney's Parramatta for three and half hours per week with a deaf teacher and another support teacher.

Taking fifteen months to complete all seven modules, Young-Joo is now the proud holder of an ICDL.

Young-Joo says "The ICDL makes me more competitive at work when I am applying for jobs because my skills are continually improving. I am also more confident when using a computer and can more effectively convey messages via email to my colleagues. When I am studying and preparing assignments the ICDL has assisted with Word, Powerpoint and Internet for research. Now my computer skills have no limits."

Young-Joo has spent much of her adult life making sure that other deaf people feel accepted in society and can participate fully in the world around them. Her ICDL certification will now help her connect, communicate and contribute in an increasingly connected world.