

the industry

in myself that the 'fund' was sacred, untouchable. So I had an 'emergency dip fund' that acted as a buffer between my all-too human desires and the 'future'. In acknowledgment of the hard work I was putting in and to be kind to myself, I gave myself reward money for my daily purse. It wasn't a huge amount but it was regular and that was enough to prevent me being tempted to 'dip'.

My only aspiration when I first started 'working the rooms' was to be able to shelter and care for my

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children and establish my independence. After a while, this achieved, I had to consider what my motivation was for continuing in the industry. Fact was I enjoyed it. I still do, despite my plans for leaving it at the end of the year. The adage “work to live or live to work” had a huge impact on me. We don't have to overwork ourselves. We have the time and the money to enjoy that time. I decided 10 years was long enough to achieve financial independence. That coincided with my youngest, my son turning 18, and most of his friends also turning 18... It seemed a good time to aim for.

I sat down and worked out roughly how much I would want to invest to be able to retire and how much I needed to save each year. I set an amount for each month, each week and a loose goal for each shift. No point getting upset if the daily amount doesn't work out, there is always the week, the month to bring it in. The thing that really worked was 'picking away at it'. Mostly, if not always, putting something aside to be saved after the immediate necessities are dealt with. Short, medium and long-term. Something saved for each project, depending on importance or urgency. Allow for emergencies. It's funny, but ever since the 'emergency dip fund' was created I have never had to use it. It still sits there.

At the end of this year I will make the tree-change to

hundreds of acres of paradise. Ten years is the longest I have stuck at anything, except raising children. Having shown myself that I can achieve small and big goals along the way, I feel I could pull anything off... I mean, pull off anything... you know what I mean!

Lots of love, Chelsea

RhED speaks to workers who are thinking of leaving the industry but have concerns about what, where or how they might go about it.

This is a reminder that you have many skills you use everyday without realising it. You use these skills with your partners, children, families, clients, co workers, management, health workers, doctors, etc.

Some of these skills include:

- Communication
- Problem solving
- Managing relationships
- Time management
- Knowledge of boundaries
- Customer relations
- Managing people with challenging behaviours
- Counselling
- Crowd control
- Sexual health
- Managing your finances

If you wish to discuss any of the above speak with a RhED worker on 1800 458 752.