

# A Change is as Good as a Holiday

They say a change is as good as a holiday and I can confirm that is true. Being a speech pathologist for six years in the Department of Education, late last year I decided I wanted to try something different. A friend suggested being a governess. It was something that had been on my bucket list for a while but, to be honest, I was not sure how you even became a governess. As with all good country stories, a friend of a friend knew someone who was looking for a governess in 2022 so I said yes, not even knowing if I was qualified enough for the position!

I sold my belongings, packed up my life and drove over 2,000km through Victoria and South Australia before arriving at the Territory Grape Farm in the Northern Territory.

I am currently working with the Haigh family. They have recently purchased a property approximately two hours north of Alice Springs. Every day, Heath, who is only 7 years old, teaches me about horses, machinery and how to butter toast to his liking. There is never a dull moment and if you think living remotely would be boring, think again. From mouse catching to maths equations you never know what the day will bring.

Three weeks into the job and I am enjoying every moment. I have a strong passion for literacy and being able to work with a student in a 1:1 setting with support of a classroom teacher is extremely rewarding. I acknowledge that living remote is not for everyone but there is something so refreshing about being in the middle of nowhere. You are immersed into the family's life, which is really special. You have the opportunity to influence a young person's mind. Everyday there is an opportunity to do or see something you have never done before.



Deri with her pupil Heath in their schoolroom.

**Deri Singleton**



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