



GLOWING IN DARWIN

Joanne Kovac left and Maureen Schaffer at their Darwin Day Surgery. Joanne is dressed by Cue, pearl necklace and earrings from Hoskings Jewellers. Maureen is dressed by Jaquie E, pendant from Pandora. Both their shoes from Spendless Shoes. All at Casuarina Square.

Apart from identifying a gap in community service provision for clients being discharged from hospital, nurses and discharge planners Joanne Kovac and Maureen Schaffer's other goal for establishing Golden Glow Nursing was their desire to work school hours and make enough money to afford a cleaner. That was in 2001.

Jo from Adelaide and Maureen from Canberra met while working at Royal Darwin Hospital. 'While we don't work school hours, we do have a cleaner,' Jo laughs. 'Back then clients spent most of the day waiting around for different providers to attend. We envisaged one organisation doing everything at one visit. With a \$10,000 loan from Maureen's parents, we operated our private nursing service from a room in her home with a fax machine, computer and our own personal cars. Our first contract was Community Nursing with the Department of Veteran's Affairs. It progressed to post-acute contracts with health funds, compensation organisations, the Department of Health and Office of Disability.' As the business/community service landscape changed, so did their focus. Today, Golden Glow Nursing provides a full range of quality nursing and health care support, allowing people to maintain a safe, healthy lifestyle in their own homes. They are accredited with National Disability Standards, National Mental Health Standards, Aged Care Quality Agency and International Standards organisation 9001:2015. They have offices in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs, 30 fleet cars and 102 employees

consisting of Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses and support workers. In 2007 they opened Darwin Day Surgery. Both businesses provide student placements for VET and Nursing students from CDU, and work experience for students from Essington International School and Darwin High School. 'We still work full-time,' Jo says. 'I attend client visits as required, and Maureen regularly does theatre lists in the day surgery. Many of our family actively work across the two businesses. We always have our fingers on the pulse. Both companies continue to grow with the rollout of NDIS, increasing our service provision in the community, and our supported independent living houses.' Golden Glow Nursing and Darwin Day Surgery will be around for years to come, with younger family members being groomed to take the reins. 'Our flexibility and ability to embrace the changing community services landscape over the past years has attributed to our success,' Jo says. **Contact Golden Glow Nursing Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. Ph: 8927 2756** info@goldenglownursing.com.au www.goldenglownursing.com.au