



Provider eyes ex-manufacturing workers to build aged care workforce

Salisbury Downs resident Lan Tran has made the type of career change that may become increasingly more common in Australia as the manufacturing workforce continues to contract and the demand for aged care workers rises.

Having worked at Clipsal for 22 years, Tran lost her job when the company closed its Nuriootpa factory in 2009, and after retraining in aged care, she started her new career in 2010 as a carer at ACH Group's Highercombe facility in Hope Valley.

Tran said she was anxious about the future when she found out the Nuriootpa factory was closing. "I was lucky because ACH Group came to me and offered me a job and training before I left Clipsal, but I was scared about trying a new job because it was very different and I didn't know if I could do it."

Still, Tran said she was thankful for training and the opportunity for work. "I said 'I will try it and see how it goes'. After a year I was still happy and it was better than my old job."

Owen McClymont has a similar story. After a 25-year career as a welder making farm machinery and armoured vehicles for BAE, he retrained as a care worker and joined ACH Group's ViTA, Daw Park in 2014.

McClymont said while a caring role was a huge change after working in manufacturing for 25 years, he's not looking back. "I enjoy getting to know people and I find it really rewarding," he said. "It's worked out really well for me."

A CSIRO report, titled [Tomorrow's Digitally Enabled Workforce](#), said there have been steady declines in agriculture and manufacturing jobs over the last 20 years, while service industries such as healthcare and professional services have shown strong growth.

Released last year, the report said a change in mindset, accompanied with training, may see more people working in manufacturing industries move into caring professions experiencing workforce growth, such as aged care and nursing.