

## Michelle Osborne North and Badgery Solicitors

Living and working in Dubbo has provided solicitor Michelle Osborne with a work/life balance that she never thought possible. Now with two small children and being a partner at North and Badgery Solicitors, Michelle can have the best of both worlds.

After finishing a double degree in Law and Asian Studies in 2001 and working in both Canberra and Sydney, Michelle moved to Dubbo with her husband in 2004 to take up a position as a graduate solicitor at North and Badgery Solicitors.

Over the next four years she built a practice in family and criminal law and was promoted to Associate and eventually as a salaried Partner at the firm before moving to a position as the Senior Solicitor in Family Law at Dubbo Legal Aid.

“As a business woman in a regional city I am able to have a real work/life balance, I have been able to build personal relationships with my professional colleagues and if necessary am able to access their support and assistance,” Michelle said.

“It is also rewarding to be able to be a part of a community and to feel as though the contributions that you make as a professional and a business person are positive ones.”

In December 2009 Michelle entered into a partnership with Anne Hazelton and purchased the law firm North and Badgery Solicitors.

“I am certain that I would not be at this point in my career if I had remained in Sydney,” Michelle said.

“I have two children, a five-year-old and an almost three-year-old. I was very fortunate

following the birth of my second child to be able to have him at my workplace with me for the first six months of his life,” she said.

“Even as an employee I was lucky to be able to set my own hours and do some work from home so that I was available to my children when necessary.”

According to Michelle, her legal firm is very child friendly and both Michelle and her business partner have extra time off each week to spend more time with their children.

**“As a business woman in a regional city, I am able to have a real work/life balance.”**

“It is my view that if I was running the same business in Sydney this would not be an option for us, partly due to the commute times in bigger centres and partly due to the expectations of clients and other professionals,” she said.

Michelle said the lifestyle advantages of living in a regional city were endless.

“Living and working in Dubbo allows me to leave home at 8.15am to be at work at 8.30am. I can leave work at 5pm and be home 15 minutes later,” she said.

“We live in a large home on four-acres; with a mortgage that we can afford that is 15 minutes from our work places. The day-to-day costs of living and working are significantly less and the rewards on a professional level are, in my view, greater. What’s also great, is that flights to Sydney are affordable when you want a taste of the city.”



Michelle said Dubbo had excellent schools and an extensive range of sporting clubs and activities for both adults and children.

“Having chosen to live in a regional centre we are able to afford a higher standard of living while enjoying more family time and still having the same work satisfaction and career challenges,” she said.

**Looking to make the move or bring your business to Dubbo?**

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