



Jean Beriki has been with Dianella Community Health since 1977.

Picture: ADAM ELWOOD

Long career of caring

JEAN Beriki had a romantic view of nursing as a young girl fuelled by a passion for books.

She used to read *Cherry Ames, Student Nurse*, which helped spur her future ambitions.

“It was a schoolgirl book. Everything looked very rosy and everything was really good,” she said.

“I just decided, I think when I was about 12, that I wanted to become a nurse.”

The Craigieburn woman was working as a child nurse

at St Vincent’s, following a stint at The Alfred, when she got married and moved to Westmeadows.

To save travel time, she applied for a nursing job in 1977 at Broadmeadows Community Health Services, now Dianella Community Health, and has remained there ever since.

“Because I live in the area and I’ve also come to really respect the area of medical practice, I really try to think that I’m actually doing some valuable work here helping

people doing chronic disease management and diabetes care,” Ms Beriki said.

There have been challenges along the way, particularly moving from the service’s small practice with two medical rooms and a clinic to a new building across from the shopping centre, and repeating the process when they switched buildings again in 1998.

The latest move took place recently as they transferred to the new Hume GP Super Clinic.