

# From English sitting-room table to Sydney – and back again



*"The HR Dept is my dream job, using the experiences gained over the years of different businesses and people. I love working with our customers and our licensees helping them achieve their dreams."*

**Sue Tumelty, Founder and Executive Director of The HR Dept Ltd**



## The story of how Sue Tumelty took her small business HR consultancy global

Mum, training manager, corporate HR director. That was all done before Sue started her business, The HR Dept. Since then she has become an entrepreneur, franchisor, published author and international exporter.

Sue hasn't done it all with one arm tied behind her back. But she is profoundly deaf and only hears through the miracle of cochlear implants. Sue has a fascinating story to tell for budding business owners, exporters, franchisors, women in business and people overcoming adversity. And you can book her as a keynote speaker in the UK, Ireland and Australia.

### The HR Dept story

Sue developed an interest in HR mid-career, when she was promoted to manager in the health sector. But she has always understood the importance of good people to a business.

Sue started The HR Dept in 2002, following this passion to provide outsourced HR to SMEs in the South West of England. And it took off quickly. Like so many small businesses, it all started from a table in her house. But within two years she had acquired an office, hired staff and put all the systems in place to franchise.

The business never looked back. It currently has over 85 active territories, with approximately 180 qualified HR professionals delivering expert advice to more than 6,000 customers. And that is just in the UK. The most recent steps have been to expand into Ireland and Australia, ensuring an exciting next chapter in the business.

Her journey took her to national HR director at that firm and then an interim HR director for several blue chips. But over the years she had developed a passion for smaller businesses.

As an executive director, Sue still takes an active role in the business, but has handed the reins to her daughter, Gemma Tumelty, who has spearheaded the Australian expansion.

With so much experience, part of Sue's time is now dedicated to public speaking. Here, she can share her knowledge to help others on their business and life journeys.

### Book Sue Tumelty to speak at your event

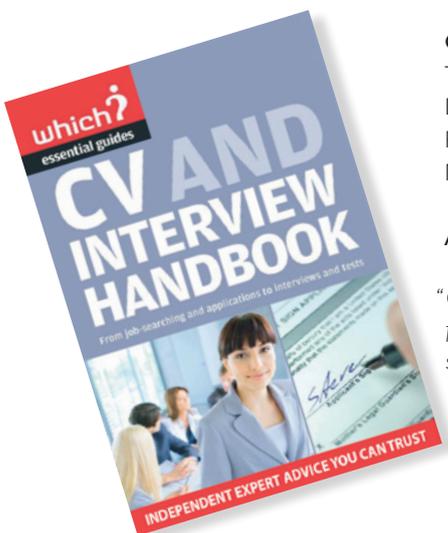
Sue has a lot to say – and as a trained actor as well as years of experience in business networking, she says it in an engaging and insightful way. **To enquire about booking her for your event in the UK, Ireland or Australia, call 0345 208 1120 or email [info@hrdept.co.uk](mailto:info@hrdept.co.uk)**

#### Comment and articles featured in:

The Guardian, The Telegraph, Financial Times, Daily Mail, BBC News, Personnel Today, People Management, Local and Regional News Publications.

#### Author of Which? CV and Interview Handbook

*"Growing up in a family business taught me from the earliest age that reliable and flexible staff were essential."*



### Sue Tumelty: At a glance



**Born:** 1950

**Place of birth:** Castleford, Yorkshire

**School:** Scarborough Convent

**Career (all of it):** Working on beach ponies in Filey; actor with Birmingham Theatre School; waitress; bar tender; child-carer; dental receptionist; At Aircall (later Healthcall) PA (despite being unable to type), manager, regional trainer, national HR director; interim blue chip HR director; Founder of HR Dept.

**Professional bodies:** FCIPD and FAHRI

**Hobbies:** Reading

**Favourite book:** Too many, but best business book is The E-Myth.

**Favourite weekend:** Pottering around the house and garden, going out for lunch on Saturday and having family roasts on Sunday.

**Areas of expertise for speaking topics:** Start-ups, referral marketing and networking, franchising, going international, employment law, HR related topics, careers.

**Past events:** International Dance Teacher's Association, Mums4Work, Skiing for Heroes, Farm Shops Association, The Golf Club Managers Association, Women Outside the Box, National Animal Charity, networking groups, schools.

*"Taking time out earlier in my career to have my children, I supported my then-husband's business. Here I learned the vagaries of payroll and cash flow – another excellent experience for my own business later."*