

Nicola Gavigan

Seclusion Spa



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After her children grew up, Nicola repurposed their one-acre football pitch into a boutique spa, which offers exclusive use of spa facilities for each group.

Established in March 2017, Seclusion Spa is a boutique spa in the beautiful rural setting of Ardfarna, Bundoran, Co Donegal. The spa promises peace and tranquillity along with fabulous treatments for an overall memorable experience.

Having worked as a therapist for nearly 20 years, Nicola has ample experience in the industry. She managed a hotel spa and a number of beauty salons over the years, but didn't like the conveyor belt of speeding a crowd through, so decided to create her own exclusive and personalised retreat.

Even with her previous entrepreneurial adventures – running and leasing a country music bar for eight years and her own beauty salon for two years – Nicola found the ACORNS support invaluable.

The support and advice from fellow participants gave Nicola a fresh set of eyes to see if her ideas were achievable. Nicola also said that the feedback and shared knowledge from other ACORNS participants, as well as her Lead Entrepreneur, expanded her business knowledge and helped grow her network.

As a trained and experienced beauty therapist, Nicola works at the spa along with one part-time therapist and a student who is on work experience. In recent weeks, Seclusion Spa started offering overnight packages in the on-site, self-catering private accommodation.

Over the coming months, Nicola hopes to raise the profile of Seclusion Spa to entice more clients to the spa and in particular to increase demand for the overnight spa packages.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine