

# Meagen Beaumont

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## Overview

My name is Meagen Beaumont and I am a Year 12 student at Kirwan State High School, Townsville. In 2017 I was able to complete a Certificate II in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Healthcare, a dual qualification in the Certificate II in Health Support Services and Certificate II in Community Services through RTO, Connect n Grow. Throughout these qualifications I gained a large amount of experience across the health field which only increased my interest in pursuing a career within health and in particular, nursing.

In January 2018, I was successful in securing a school-based Traineeship with Northern Australia Primary Health Limited. As part of this I am also completing a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance through Connect n Grow. I work every Wednesday between their Corporate Office at Douglas and their Headspace Office at Riverway Kirwan. So far I have gained a large amount of experience working with their ITC team, Administration and Events and their Headspace Team.

Having grown up with personal experience with family suffering from illnesses and health problems, it has always been an interest of mine to work within the field. I enjoy helping people and am lucky to be working alongside a team that share the same passion for helping our community and closing the gap. My goal is to graduate from Year 12 this year and commence study in midwifery to work within my community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.

## Criterion 1: Career and study achievements

To date I have had the opportunity to complete several health certificates including Certificate II in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Healthcare, Certificate II in Health Support Services and Certificate II in Community Services. I am also currently completing my Certificate III in Health Services Assistance. Completing these certificates has given me a strong basis and understanding of the core health components that I have been able to put into play with my traineeship. It has also educated me on the basic health needs and health assessments so I can pass this knowledge onto my family and widespread community.

I strongly believe in the services that NAPHL deliver to their clients and am honoured to be part of their team. I have already learnt a lot about the cultural barriers within the healthcare system and how health professionals approach this issue. I was also fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to do health promotion talks at schools in Townsville as part of the Headspace Team.

The combination of the Certificate II in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health care and my current traineeship have provided an ideal opportunity for on-the-job and off-the-job training. For example, each week I have the opportunity to work in the clinic before spending an hour in the afternoon completing my Certificate III qualification. I enjoy learning and acquiring new skills and look forward to each module/topic. Being in Year 12, it is vital that I have set goals in place throughout the year to ensure I reach my major goal of completing the Certificate III on time. This joint approach to learning provides me with a strong theoretical base as well as practical, hands on skills ensuring that my training remains exciting and relevant to me. Through this traineeship I hope to take my skills and experience back to the remote communities to assist and educate where required.

## **Criterion 2: Communication, team and leadership skills**

Through my vocational training, I have gained many skills that will be beneficial to my career. Like all professions, communication plays a key role in the Healthcare Industry. Being a Health Professional requires communicating effectively and ensuring you have a positive relationship with patients, as well as keeping all documentation up to date and accurate. Since commencing with NAPHL, my communication skills, both oral and written, have improved considerably. Each week I have the opportunity to work with a different team of professionals which involves liaising with different levels of management, taking place in meetings, speaking at schools and maintaining a professional relationship with patients and clients. My time with NAPHL and undertaking this traineeship will be very beneficial, as I believe it will enhance my communication skills for future job and career prospects.

My level of self-reliance and resilience has improved significantly since undertaking this training. Having worked in a new industry and team environment has meant that I have had to quickly learn new systems and procedures, as well as understanding how the corporate sector operates. It has also given me the chance to work on my own, ensuring that I understand what different tasks require and taking the initiative to ask questions if I am unsure of how to proceed. This I believe is a vital skill in any job position.

To date I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the NAPHL team. I believe that my ability to work as a team member has been enhanced during my traineeship, as well as by participating in sporting teams and school projects. I am a great believer in encouraging others to achieve their goals, asking questions when I am unsure and supporting and listening to others - really hearing what they have to say. Taking part in this traineeship has taught me much about leadership in the Corporate Sector and the importance of team members working towards common goals. I am passionate about healthcare and closing the gap. This unique educational opportunity provides me with a chance to be an ambassador for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in healthcare and encourage other students and community members to pursue health education opportunities.

## **Criterion 3: Ability to represent the national training system at a broader level**

I have found that going down the Vocational Education Pathway has led to a number of opportunities that I didn't know were possible for me to pursue. There is an assumption that OP related courses lead into University, however I believe that the path I have chosen has many advantages over attempting to complete a University course straight out of high school. I have gained so much knowledge, not to mention the hands on skills gained from work experience as part of my traineeship so far. This is the ideal pathway for me, and I think more exposure and awareness should be placed on the VET System with promoting the job opportunities available for students who also choose this course.

Through my traineeship opportunity I have discovered that there are many different trends in the industry that are affecting communities and people around Australia. For example, we have an ageing population in Australia that needs to be considered. Also, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have poorer health in general, suffering from many preventable diseases. There are still communication and education barriers that need to be addressed with regards to both of these issues. My training has also opened my eyes to the many career opportunities that have arisen out of these challenges. The shortage of professionals suggests that there are career opportunities for students like me in the industry. Through my VET training I now have a definite career outlook, which focuses on completing my VET training and traineeship before progressing on to University to study Nursing. My ultimate goal is employment within the health industry.

As an ambassador and current student leader of Kirwan State High School, I would strongly advocate that undertaking the VET route opens many doors to different career pathways. I am a strong believer that the journey I have chosen to take has been a good step in setting myself up to complete future goals. I am able to walk out of Grade 12 this year with several qualifications as well as hands on experience with a well known and highly regarded employer in the health industry.

#### Criterion 4: Other pursuits

I love sports and have enjoyed participating and watching a variety of sporting events from an early age. Up until this year I have been involved with Rugby and Netball. These sports have been a great interest of mine as I love the competitiveness and social aspects as well as working with my teammates.

My involvement within the community includes representing Kirwan State High School, raising funds for Shave for a Cure and assisting with fundraiser BBQ's. In 2017 I was also given the opportunity to complete 2 weeks work experience at Good Shepherd Nursing Home. My role was to provide assistance to all patients with getting them to and from appointments. I really enjoyed this experience and after the two weeks at Good Shepherd I walked away knowing that Health was an industry in which I wanted to work.

I am honoured to be a House Captain this year at Kirwan State High School. This means regular house and leadership meetings and showing strong communication and guidance to all students at house events. I also actively take part in the Indigenous Young Leaders Program at School which involves meeting every fortnight. I thoroughly enjoy being a representative for this group and pride myself on being a strong leader and ambassador for all students at Kirwan who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. I am grateful for the opportunity to have completed several health certificates and be undertaking this traineeship. I would definitely recommend and encourage others to pursue this pathway as I have.

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