A CAREER THAT COUNTS
TAMIKA WARE IS ON TRACK TO TURN HER PASSION FOR NUMBERS INTO A REWARDING CAREER

High school maths class was the stuff of nightmares for some teenagers, but not for Tamika.

“When I was younger I developed a big passion for mathematics and I got good grades in maths at school,” Tamika said.

“I have always really loved numbers and how they tease my brain, so the idea of working in accounting has been a dream of mine.”

Born and raised in Cairns and with cultural ties to Moa Island, Tamika turned to TAFE Queensland to kick start her career.

“When I finished Year 12 I moved to Thursday Island and began working full time and studying a Certificate III in Business Administration (BSB30415),” she said.

During her course, Tamika learned the art of balancing work, life and study when she welcomed a baby boy.

“There were times when it was hard to manage full-time work with training and caring for my son. But with the help of my partner I was able to make time for my son and juggle both work and my studies.”

After completing her business administration training, Tamika went on to enrol in a Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping (FNS40217), an away from base course.

“The program was delivered via residential study blocks, so I had to travel from Thursday Island to Cairns for my training,” she said.

“My son travelled with me to every residential block and I’m forever grateful for my mum, who lives in Cairns, for the support she gave me during my studies.

“My mum works full time but, when I had a study block, she was able to take leave from work so that she could help look after my son which allowed me to focus on my training.

“It was a big relief when my accounting and bookkeeping certificate arrived in the mail. I know I worked really hard for my qualification so it was nice to know that all of the sacrifices had paid off.”

Tamika, 21, said she’s now keen to give back to her people.

“I want to use my skills to help out my family and the community. My relatives are starting up their own businesses and that really motivated me to push myself to complete this qualification so I can assist them with the accounting side of things.”

Tamika is now enrolled in the Diploma of Accounting (FNS50217) which she is studying from Thursday Island.

Business and accounting teacher, Anne Hoepfner said Tamika was a very driven student.

“I first met Tamika during her business administration studies. She was a quiet but dedicated student, and I was delighted when she decided to enrol in the Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping (FNS40217),” Anne said.

“Tamika worked full time, but she was disciplined in her studies. She always stayed in touch and she took every opportunity to catch up with me face-to-face so she could keep moving forward with her training.

“I know that Tamika will do well in the diploma course.”

Tamika said upgrading her skills hasn’t always been easy, but she encourages others to face their challenges.

“My advice to everyone is just get in and remain focused on achieving your goal.”

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THROUGH HIS CULTURAL ART STUDIES, DARNLEY ISLAND COMMUNITY ELDER KAPUA GUTCHEN (SNR) IS SHARING THE STORIES OF HIS PEOPLE

BY KAPUA GUTCHEN (SNR)

My artwork depicts a very powerful sorcerer named Saiid who took the form of a waumer (frigate bird). Saiid, also known as Sido, originally came from Kupamar (Kawai Island) south of the mouth of Dodogab Kusa (Fly River) in Papua New Guinea.

Saiid brought many exotic food plants to Mer (Murray Island) and made the Meriam people happy. However, Saiid had a dark side and would use sorcery to seduce women. Saiid’s last abductee was a widow named Kudar. Using sorcery, Saiid shrunk Kudar to fit inside his buzilepei (sorcerer’s hand basket), which also contained his sorcery stones and feathers. Saiid got into his canoe and fled Mer heading north west. Kudar’s two sons, Kos and Abob, went after Saiid to execute him and rescue their mother.

As the brothers’ canoe got close enough to kill Saiid, he magically changed into a giant waumer (frigate bird). As Saiid started to soar upwards, Kos and Abob managed to knock out his central tail feathers with sticks — this is why frigate birds have V-shaped tail feathers today. Kudar unfortunately fell out of the sorcerer’s basket and into the sea where she became a small reef called Aum Kep near Mer.

Saiid flew to Erub where he saw some tribesmen and women eating raw fish, so he magically sent fire down to them so they could cook their fish. Saiid named these people Saisarem after himself.

When Kos and Abob arrived at Erub in search of Saiid, they built the first stone fish trap at a place called Kegawarsi which is known today as Kedawarsi. The brothers named the trap after Saiid, calling it Sai. The brothers hoped the trap would catch sardines (tup) and that Saiid, in the form of the frigate bird, would descend into the trap to feast where they could kill him. Instead, Saiid escaped them and flew west to Ugar (Stephen Island).

Kos and Abob went after Saiid and they wounded him at a place called Mamred, meaning where blood was spilt. The wound infuriated Saiid and he went into a rage. Saiid directed a powerful sorcery upon the two brothers and they metamorphosed into two prism shaped black rocks, which can still be found on Mamred to this day. Saiid then flew to Kupamar to his abode high above in a very tall tree called Nabea and he eventually died of his wounds and was buried at a place called Aisa in Kupamar.

To this day, the black frigate bird with its V-shaped tail feather is called Saiid, the stone fish trap is called Sai, and the Erub tribespeople that Saiid gave fire to are known as the Saisarem Tribe of Erub Darnley Island.
TAFE QUEENSLAND TEACHER DANIEL NOBLE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT CLOSING THE GAP IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH.

Daniel teaches the Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (HLT30113), and said he gets a kick out of seeing his students succeed.

"I love being a teacher because I get to see the students perform and blossom in terms of their learning and the skills they’ve picked up," Daniel said.

"Knowing that my students are going into a workplace where they feel comfortable, they’re fully qualified and they’re confident, it gives you that sense of awesomeness that you as a TAFE Queensland teacher you’ve done something right — you’ve directed this student in a way that they’re making a difference."

Mr Noble, a Gunggandji man from Yarrabah, said his nan — one of the very first community health workers back in the late 70s to mid 80s — inspired him to pursue a similar career path.

"I was originally employed in health administration, but I decided that I wanted a more involved role in engaging with my people and supporting their health journey," Daniel said.

"I jumped at the opportunity to gain my qualification to become a health worker and I enrolled at TAFE Queensland.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care professionals are the first point of contact when community members come into clinics. We can advocate on their behalf and make sure they feel safe, confident and supported.

"Becoming a qualified health worker gave me that hands-on approach I really wanted, and the skills I gained allowed me to work in a number of clinical areas including in men's health and ear health."

Daniel said a desire to support the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care professionals is what eventually drove him to become a teacher.

"I want to pass on the skills and knowledge I’ve gained over the years from working in the health industry," Daniel said.

"I’m passionate because I want to get the message out there about healthy lifestyles and making a difference in terms of our health, which involves healthy eating and exercising, as well as looking after our social and emotional well-being."
GET JOB-READY TRAINING FOR A CAREER OF YOUR MAKING

Enrol in a Certificate or Diploma at TAFE Queensland and take the step towards "what’s next". With a variety of study modes available, including online classes, you’ll be able to study what you want in a way that suits you.

Don’t let COVID-19 stop you from studying. Enrol now and we can start your classes online and when travel restrictions lift we will confirm your block dates. Phone 4042 2595 for assistance.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>COURSE NAME</th>
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<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts</td>
<td>CUA30515</td>
<td>Thursday Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate III in Business Administration</td>
<td>BSB30415</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping</td>
<td>FNS40217</td>
<td>Cairns and Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma of Accounting</td>
<td>FNS50217</td>
<td>Cairns and Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate IV in Leadership and Management</td>
<td>BSB42015</td>
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For additional course information and start dates, go to tafeqld.edu.au or visit your local campus.
AWAY FROM BASE COURSES 2020

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students don’t need to live near one of our campuses to study a course with us. At TAFE Queensland north region, we deliver a number of courses via residential study blocks. These courses are registered as Away from Base courses, which means you may be able to have your travel, accommodation and a meal allowance paid when you attend residential blocks. Students must be registered with ABSTUDY to be eligible for Away from Base funding.

For more information about residential block training and Away from Base funding, contact an Indigenous Student Support Officer for assistance on 4042 2595.

We offer training in Conservation and Land Management, Agriculture and Horticulture? Training can be customised to suit individual and group needs.
Apprenticeships and traineeships combine paid work with structured training to gain a qualification.

Upon completion, you may find yourself in a great place to keep working, go on to future study or even start your own business!

Did you know you can start an apprenticeship or traineeship during high school, after school or if you’ve been in the workforce for a long time?

Traineeships vary in length from six months to three years, while apprenticeships generally take three to four years to complete. TAFE Queensland will assist you and your employer to get started and will provide ongoing support every step of the way!

FOUR EASY STEPS TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE OR TRAINEE

1. CHOOSE THE RIGHT APPRENTICESHIP OR TRAINEESHIP
   > Think about what you enjoy doing and what your interests are.
   > Speak to your family, friends or your school career councillor or guidance officer.
   > Get the facts at apprenticeshipsinfo.qld.gov.au.

2. FIND AN EMPLOYER
   > You can be employed directly by a business. The business will pay your wages and train you with the support of a training organisation. To find an employer:
     • contact businesses either in person or through a letter
     • apply for jobs advertised in the newspaper
     • use your personal networks – talk to family and friends to see if they know anyone who could employ you as an apprentice or trainee
     • contact a Jobactive provider – these organisations can provide you with a list of job vacancies in your area.
     Call 13 62 68 or visit jobs.gov.au.
   > You can be employed by a group training organisation who will place you with different businesses to gain on-the-job experience, pay your wage and organise your training. To find a group training organisation call 1800 819 747.

3. CHOOSE YOUR TRAINING PARTNERS
   > Work with an Australian Apprenticeship Support Network: They will work with you and your employer at this stage to help you complete the training contract.
   > Choose a training organisation: You and your employer will choose a training organisation (TAFE Queensland) who will work with you throughout the apprenticeship or traineeship.
   Contact the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network on 13 38 73 or Apprenticeships Info on 1800 210 210 for more information.

4. GET STARTED
   > Complete your paperwork: Speak to your employer and your training organisation to complete your paperwork and develop your training plan.
   > Use the probationary period: Probation is a period when the apprentice or trainee works and trains with an employer before each decides whether to continue.
A PASSIONATE HEALTH WORKER, LEVINA DIXON IS ON THE FRONTLINE HELPING TO CLOSE THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH GAP.

Becoming an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professional has been a bittersweet journey for Levina.

"I decided to get into health care because a lot of my family were dying prematurely with diabetes and heart disease," Levina said.

"Unfortunately, health workers see these sorts of conditions every day in our communities.

"These illnesses are preventable and can be managed, we just need to educate our people and support them to make healthy lifestyle changes.

"As health workers we’re there to empower, support and educate our clients through their whole health journey.

"It's a really great feeling to see our clients come out on the other side, making good choices which are changing their health and their wellbeing. I am so proud of them." Levina is a descendant of the Kunja and Wangkamurra people of South West Queensland and she works at Mulungu Medical Centre in Mareeba. She has a decade of industry experience under her belt and enrolled in the Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice (HLT40213) to upskill.

"I decided to enrol at TAFE Queensland to gain some extra knowledge and information, so that I can better help my people," Levina said.

"Health workers are out there trying to close the gap and by being knowledgeable, sharing that education, and being there to support our people, we can do that." Levina said it was great to combine theory with hands-on lessons in clinical training rooms at the Cairns campus.

"At TAFE Queensland we have prac days and some of the practical skills we learn include blood pressures, suturing, and ear and eye examinations," she said.

"My TAFE Queensland teachers, Christine and Natalie, are very knowledgeable and very hands-on. It's wonderful to be able to learn from two people who really know what they are talking about when it comes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health."

Levina hopes others interested in Indigenous health join her in the profession.

"If there is somebody out there that would like to become an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, I would say go for it," she said.

"Who better knows our community than we do?

"We're there to help them, support them, educate them, advocate for them, so we can do all that by becoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners.

"We know what our community needs and what our people need."
DESPITE FACING A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES, ALICIA SABATINO’S DETERMINATION TO FURTHER HER EDUCATION HAS MADE HER MORE RESILIENT THAN EVER

At the beginning of her Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAE40116) studies, Alicia knew she would have to be well-organised.

Pregnant at the time of enrolling, Alicia welcomed a baby boy halfway through her training, but she wasn’t prepared for what came next.

“When I had my son, I had to leave Thursday Island and go to the hospital in Cairns because I got really sick,” Alicia said.

The unexpected setback resulted in Alicia missing two training blocks but despite the challenge before her, she persevered.

“TAFE Queensland has been flexible and really supportive. The learning materials can be accessed online and my teacher kept in touch and helped me to get on top of the blocks and assessments that I missed,” she said.

“I was also able to go to some night classes which really helped with my family commitments and it gave me the opportunity for more one-on-one time with the trainer.”

Alicia is no stranger to hitting the books. The 32-year-old has already obtained a Certificate IV in Business Administration (BSB40515), a Diploma of Business (BSB50215) and a qualification in management.

The Queensland Government’s Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy is helping to cover the costs of Alicia’s training and assessment qualification.

“When I heard that TAFE Queensland would be offering this funded course face-to-face at the Thursday Island campus, I thought it was a once in a lifetime opportunity,* she said.

“If you’re someone who specialises in a certain area, a training and assessment certificate is a great qualification to have as you can use it to train people.

“I am a Senior Compliance Officer at Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) and I have always enjoyed sharing my knowledge with others.

“An important aspect of my job is providing support to the communities and government agencies in regards to non-compliance in the Torres Strait Islands and ensuring we all work in a culturally appropriate manner.

“My studies are teaching me how to structure training appropriately and how to meet individual learning needs,* she said.

“I think there’s a lack of Indigenous trainers and assessors around Australia and this course opens up more opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to become trainers.

“Indigenous trainers are important as they can help break down language barriers and they can teach our people in a culturally appropriate way.”

TAFE Queensland training and assessment teacher, Ian Kruger said Alicia’s dedication to her studies and her pursuit of higher education was admirable.

“Alicia is a very organised person and she is meticulous in her preparation and presentation, submitting work that certainly reflects her determination to do well,* Ian said.

“Alicia has demonstrated the art of balancing work, life and study, and she has also shown great resilience by taking in her stride the challenges that have arisen during her course.

“Alicia has the hallmarks of a very capable trainer.”

The TSRA welcomed the opportunity to support Alicia in her studies. TAFE Queensland is an important partner in the Torres Strait Islands, helping locals with their learning and development needs. Building staff capacity is a key priority of the TSRA and underpins empowering local Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.
TOWNSVILLE (PIMLICO) CAMPUS

Our Townsville (Pimlico) campus has recently undergone a $35 million redevelopment. If you live nearby or are travelling to Townsville, stop in and have a visit. Our students are making great happen in our new state-of-the-art facilities. Alternatively visit: tafeqld.edu.au/pimlico to view our campus video.

myPROFILER

Reach your full potential by matching your personality profile with the study journey that is right for you. Visit tafeqld.edu.au and take a quiz using myPROFILER to match training with a career.
Patrick Majid is passionate about supporting trade training opportunities in the Torres Strait.

With close to three decades of industry experience under his tool belt, Patrick is excited about discovering a new future in carpentry.

The 47-year-old has always enjoyed sharing his knowledge with others so he decided to take things to the next level by studying a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAE40116) at the TAFE Queensland Thursday Island campus.

"At job sites I’m normally the foreman or running my own crew, so I have always been teaching people," Patrick said.

"I thought it would be a good idea to further my education and become a qualified trainer and assessor so I can help people to get a trade certificate."

Patrick, who has lived most of his life on Horn Island, said he was passionate about making sure Torres Strait Islander residents had access to a quality trade education.

"Most of the time people need to leave their communities to study, but if I can take lessons to the outer islands then the students get to stay at home and learn in a comfortable environment," he said.

"I really like the idea of being able to take the training to students and being a role model for my people."

Patrick’s training is being supported by the Queensland Government’s Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy.

Patrick said the funded training initiative came at the right time in his career.

"I’m getting older and my work is quite physical, so this opportunity provides me with the chance to step into a trainer role and share my knowledge with people who are interested in a carpentry career," he said.

TAFE Queensland training and assessment teacher, Ian Kruger said Patrick would make a wonderful educator.

"Patrick has a presence about him that is alluring, entertaining and very earnest," Ian said.

"Patrick’s work is very thorough and he constantly challenges himself to do the best he can."

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs Industry Portfolio Manager, Leanne Bell said increasing the number of local trainers in the Torres Strait was a win-win.

"Developing more educators means that culturally appropriate training can be delivered in the community by respected community members," Leanne said.

"Educators are among the world’s most trusted professionals, and it’s wonderful that TAFE Queensland is providing more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the skills they need to become trainers."
A QUIET ACHIEVER

LYNLEE BRIM IS PASSIONATE ABOUT USING HER NURSING SKILLS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OUTCOMES OF HER PEOPLE

Aboriginal woman Lynlee, 58, has always been a caring soul.

“When I was a child, I developed a real passion for health. I remember that I used to pretend that I was a nurse when I was playing with my siblings. I’m the second oldest child from a family of nine, so growing up there was always someone to look after,” Lynlee said.

“I went on to have four children of my own and I also have 18 grandchildren, so I’ve always played the role of caregiver.

“One day I just decided that I was going to do something for myself.

“I spoke to one of my daughters about studying a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance (HLT33115) and she enrolled with me. I had such a great time learning at TAFE Queensland and by the end of the course I was certain that I needed to continue my studies.

“I really wanted to do more to promote and support Indigenous health, so I just decided to go for it and enrol in the Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115). I absolutely loved my diploma studies. The learning involved was tiring at times, but I really enjoyed the challenge and the hands-on training,” Lynlee said.

Lynlee said she gained a greater appreciation for the profession while undertaking 400 hours of vocational placement as part of her studies.

“I completed my hours in a hospital and my training kicked in immediately. Everything just came naturally to me. I got to work day and night shifts in the emergency and surgical wards, so I received the full experience during my placement.”

Lynlee said her nursing teachers set her up for success.

“My teachers were very knowledgeable and patient. Everything they taught me in the TAFE Queensland nursing lab is exactly what I do now in the workplace,” she said.

“I work at Mulungu which is an Aboriginal primary health care service. It’s important that services like Mulungu exist because they break down barriers and provide Aboriginal people with a place to access culturally appropriate clinical and social care.

“I absolutely love my job. I feel good when I help my people and give them the support they need to live healthier lives.”

Lynlee’s passion for nursing and dedication to her studies earned her the Myra Sessions Award at graduation in Cairns. The accolade is presented in honour of Ms Sessions, a former nursing teacher who continued to mentor students after she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

“Receiving the award came as such a surprise. I’m very proud and my family and my colleagues are all very proud of me as well,” Lynlee said.

Demand is strong for qualified enrolled nurses with national employment data predicting around 14,000 job openings in the coming years.

SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT

Our team of Indigenous Student Support Officers can help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students every step of the way through their learning journey at TAFE Queensland. Phone 4042 2595 for assistance.
In many areas of Australia it is considered offensive to publish photographs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are deceased. Readers are warned that this publication may inadvertently contain such photographs.

Artwork elements from TAFE Queensland’s Reconciliation Action Plan artwork ‘Connecting Knowledge – Connecting Cultures’ by Riki Salam, We are 27 Creative. Visit tafeqld.edu.au/rap to view the Reconciliation Action Plan.