

**Submission  
No 129**

**INQUIRY INTO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Miss Candice Figgett

**Date received:** 10/08/2015

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### Background On Me:

Left school in year 11 due to pregnancy

Single mum

Bunch of odd jobs in bars, cafes etc

## Tafe:

Going straight to UNI for me didn't seem like a feasible option.

- The cost
- having not studied for a long time
- Also I didn't know if I'd even like nursing?
- It just felt like a pressure I wouldn't be ready for.

(Not to mention the hoops I'd have to jump through to be given the opportunity to attend a university)

Tafe seemed like a more appropriate choice for me. The perfect introduction to nursing

It was offered via scholarship, so the fee wasn't a debt I'd be paying for the next, however many years.

The entry requirements were competitive enough to sift out the serious students from the rest. But not impossible. And it enabled me to only have to commit a year of my life initially, to see if it was an appropriate occupational fit.

It was the perfect stepping stone to kick start my career.

My experience at NSW Tafe was great. The teachers approach toward their method of teaching provided me with confidence and desire to give it my all. The classes were small and personal, face to face. Relationships support and constant encouragement was given daily.

The resources provided, like with the library, extra tutoring, were always readily available. And we were orientated to these every step of the way.

Even though I and my classmates were all succeeding at our own individual levels, we always felt like a team.

On a personal level, Tafe gave me an ambition and something to focus on and strive for. Once I completed my Diploma I had that goal of obtaining a position. My first job nursing.

This would be something I chose! A field I picked, not another job I was going to do to make ends meet. I wanted a career as opposed to a job this time. And I had the opportunity now to go for it, because I was qualified.

I had the confidence behind me from my placements in the field, during my course. And I felt ready. When you work in a field of your choosing. There comes a sense of pride. Pride in yourself and pride in the work you do. You are more likely going to want to work your way up, and go further within your role when it's a path you've chosen.

I was lucky enough to score a job with HNEH and have been working fulltime for nearly a year. I love my work, the routine it has given me and learning new things daily from my peers.

It has helped me in my home life and financially so that I can provide more things for my daughter, like singing lessons for example.

I've been able to purchase a car and feel like a contributing member of society. I'm happier within myself and find myself even more confident in social situations.

I'm now working towards doing my RN next year. All of these things which just wouldn't have been possible had I not attended NSW Tafe. My time at Tafe will give me recognised as prior learning. And I will not be expected to do those units over.

I seriously am so grateful that NSW Tafe was available to me, and couldn't be happier with the way it has helped me turn my life around. For myself, and my daughter. I constantly recommend Tafe to anyone looking to kick-start a career

Thankyou