

# STUDENT STORY



## Christopher Veal

**Doctorate in Philosophy**  
**University of Southern Queensland**

### **What are you studying and what inspired you to choose this field of study?**

My thesis is titled "What are the difficulties recruiting and retaining mental health nurses in rural and remote parts of Australia". I have been a nurse for 40 years, a mental health nurse for 20 years and have worked remotely in Australia for 15 years. The people of Australia deserve the best health care that can be provided and to do this staff are needed in remote locations. This is getting harder and harder, so I decided to research why this is and to try and find solutions to address this problem.

### **As an online student studying remotely, what challenges have you encountered, and how has CUC helped you overcome these challenges?**

This question arises within my thesis. As the world becomes smaller due to the increased capabilities of computer software, online learning will be on the increase. However, there are costs associated with this and in rural and remote parts of Australia, internet connections are costly and prone to weather situations. Having a reliable, comfortable, clean facility in which to study helps produce work that is commensurate with urban facilities.

### **What advice would you offer to fellow community members who are contemplating further study?**

I encourage all people that I come across in my workplace and social life to visit the CUC in Cooktown and be impressed with the services that are free and available to anyone studying. It is a magnificent facility that the Federal Government has provided for the residents of Cooktown and should inspire many students for years to come.