

STUDENT STORY



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

I'm currently studying Anthropology - I chose this degree mainly because I find humans and the culture that shapes us incredibly fascinating. I later chose to major in Indigenous Australian Studies as I've found it to be one of the most holistic, sustainable as well as oldest cultures in history. I believe we all have a lot to learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practices particularly in the way we interact and connect with country.

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

There are many challenges in studying remotely including: access to reliable service, regular and long-lasting power and internet outages (Bloomfield), access to facilities and kms travelled in doing so (130km round trip), general higher cost of living, access to basic healthcare etc. creates a more challenging environment for students, across the board rules and protocols within University's that do not consider those students living remotely (e.g. inability to download lectures whilst access to internet is feasible rather having to watch them at specific times which means I am often sleeping in my car (once or twice a week) at the closest township Cooktown in order to complete these tasks).

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

If there's anyone out there considering study, I would urge you to give it a go! Sometimes the idea of studying or getting degree can be daunting - but instead of looking at the final goal or product aka getting the degree in order to further your career, why don't you just look at it as studying to keep your mind active, learn new and interesting things, more character building than anything! I believe the commercialisation of education has in many ways taken away from the essence of it. We do not need to study only to get a job, we can just study to learn.

The CUC is a great asset to the community because it provides support to those considering and/or participating in study, something that can be considerably daunting at the best of times, remote or not. So, we are very lucky to have a centre like this in Cooktown.