

# STUDENT STORY



## Sarah Jane

**Certificate III in Early Childhood  
Education and Care**

**Australian College of Teacher Aides and Childcare**

With a background and qualifications in primary education, and most recently experience and a qualification in adult education, I've always valued the role of education and learning both professionally and personally. We are always learning and evolving and when I arrived at my new home, there were no opportunities in my previous field. I realised I needed to learn new skills in order to gain employment where it was needed most in our community, so I enrolled in an Early Years qualification. Being a "mature-aged" student, while trying to settle into a new community and raising a 6yo has been no easy task. - it's sometimes downright terrifying.

However, the moment I walked through the door of the Uni Centre, I felt welcomed and at ease. The terrific trio - Jen, Kerry and Tiannie - are one heck of a welcome team and were the first people I met in town. Their passion for education and supporting people in our community is profound. You can really feel the care put into the centre, both as a physical space, as well as the energy of it.

The Cooktown Country Universities Centre allows me to study in a safe space, with ease, and in an environment that is conducive to my well-being and success. With attention to every detail, from having any imagined resource needed, to the cleanliness of the space and the snacks and beverages that keep you going. I cannot thank the team enough for work they do. They've helped me, someone who swore to never study again only one year prior, return to study feeling more empowered and motivated than ever.