



Anything is achievable

“MISTAKES are not failures” are the words from proud Wakka Wakka woman Samantha Watson, who is working as a nurse in a regional far north Queensland hospital.

“Often mistakes are your best opportunity to learn,” Ms Watson said. “This is something that I am still working on in my own life, but I can certainly promise that making mistakes has made me a better nurse.”

Ms Watson is an Australian Catholic University (ACU) graduate and was born and raised in the South Burnett region. She has connections to the Kullili, Birri Gubba, Koa and Gunggari people.

She initially found moving away from home tough, but after connecting with other students who had also left home, Samantha built a strong support network.

As a young Indigenous person Samantha wants others to know that university is achievable. And although she followed her passion into nursing Samantha thinks it is okay to change degrees if you aren't sure of what you want to do at the age of 17.

Receiving a Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF)



Parents Bronwyn and Kevin Watson with ACU graduate Samantha Watson.

scholarship ensured Samantha could stay at Saint Mary's Catholic College in Kingaroy.

It was around this time, after meeting with Indigenous

professionals at a QATSIF workshop that she was inspired to study hard.

Being named College Captain was an honour for her and the

decision to go to university was an easy one.

However moving away from family, friends and community was difficult and there were times

during her four years at ACU that she could have thrown in the towel and moved home.

Now that she is a qualified nurse and can't imagine being anything else, she is very happy that she stayed.

Tips for the future

Samantha has a few tips to pass onto any young people thinking about their future:

1. You are good enough. Sometimes you'll feel like you can't do it, you can't finish it or you can't be it. The truth is if you are willing to work hard, you can definitely do it.
2. Surround yourself with positive people. It's amazing how much other people are willing to help you to achieve your goals.
3. Most importantly, have fun and enjoy the journey! Meeting new people, learning their stories and sharing in their knowledge will make you a better person. I'm lucky enough to meet new people every day and it's the favourite part of my job.

Samantha says that her education is nowhere near complete and hopes to be able to show other Indigenous young people that anything is achievable.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Accommodation Scholarship

Australian Catholic University's (ACU) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Accommodation Scholarship covers the full cost of student accommodation, so you can concentrate on your studies and make the most of your university experience.

There are two scholarships available in Brisbane.

acu.edu.au/scholarships

