

Finding strength through study



FOR proud Meriam Mir woman and Townsville mum of three Aleshia Morris, studying at TAFE Queensland wasn't just about gaining a qualification – it was a turning point in her life.

After facing past trauma that once made study feel out of reach, Aleshia found the courage to take a first step into something new, enrolling in the Certificate III in Community Services (CHC3215). What followed was a journey marked by resilience, connection, and deep personal growth.

It all started when Aleshia joined Community Gro's women's group, a program that helps women and families find the right support and access services.

"That group gave me hope," Aleshia said. "It was a safe space to sit with other women, yarn, and realise we weren't alone."

That feeling of safety carried into the classroom, where she discovered TAFE Queensland wasn't just a place to learn new skills – but somewhere she could rebuild her confidence.

"I opened up to my classmates because I wanted to share my journey and firsthand experience with community services," she said.

"When other students opened up too, we realised how many of us had been through similar things. We supported each other, gave each other advice, and walked out proud of what we'd achieved."

Her teacher, Adi Hayden, said Aleshia's presence made a lasting impact.

"Aleshia brought so much heart to the classroom," Adi said. She reminded me that teaching isn't just about giving knowledge, it's about learning from students too. That's what

two-way learning is all about."

Throughout her study journey, Aleshia's children remained her biggest motivation.

"They saw me stressed, tired, and sometimes ready to give up – but they also saw me keep going. Now they know that if mum can do it, they can too," Aleshia said. "I wanted them to see that if you want something, you go for it. Don't wait for it to come to you."

Aleshia's commitment to achieving her goals has already opened life-changing doors. After graduating, she stepped into full-time work as a Connector with Community Gro – the same organisation where she once sought support herself.

In this role, Aleshia combines her training with the lessons life has taught her – transforming her challenges into a source of strength for others.

"I know what it's like to feel like there's nowhere to turn, and I don't want anyone else to feel that way," she said. "I can walk alongside families and show them that change is possible."

Aleshia defines her greatness by lifting others, and her story shows what's possible when someone is given the right support, the right environment, and the belief that they already have what it takes.

Whatever greatness looks like for you, TAFE Queensland is here to help you find it. With more than 400 courses across health, trades, creative industries, business, community services, and more, there's a pathway for every learner – whether you're just starting out, returning to study, or looking to upskill.

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TAFE Queensland graduate Aleshia Morris is using her lived experience to help others in need.

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