

Haytham's on the path to his dream career

When aspiring school teacher Haytham Trueheart Harbus realised he lacked the academic writing, note taking, and referencing skills required for university studies, he turned to TAFE Queensland to gain those skills and a university pathway through a Certificate IV in Adult Tertiary Preparation (10765NAT).

"I'm studying to get the eligibility prerequisites to study primary education and become a school teacher, and TAFE Queensland is building that foundation for me," Haytham said.

Identifying as a First Nations Melanesian Torres Strait Islander (Masig Island) and Anglo-Celtic, Haytham is determined to help children and young people succeed.

"I love children's innocence, curiosity and creativity, and I am interested in childhood development, so I'm working to get in the best position to work with disadvantaged children, break the trauma cycle, restore their hope and help them succeed in life."

This motivation comes from his experience as a pupil at The Murri School in Brisbane, a community-owned and community-controlled school that builds healthy relationships between young First Nations peoples and adults.

"Many Murri School students come from challenging backgrounds, so the school puts culture, mental health and well-being first and brings education in. Being a skilled and qualified

teacher able to help those students develop healthy relationships with adults is my dream career," Haytham explained.

"With the skills and knowledge that I'm learning, and being a Torres Strait Islander, I know the challenges First Nations children face, and I'm getting qualified to connect them to their culture through teaching.

"I'm fortunate to be preparing to become a teacher that helps First Nations students connect with their culture – it's great for healing the soul. The combination of my training and culture will set me up for a fulfilling and life-long career."

Helping Haytham achieve his dream is the Queensland Government's Fee-Free TAFE funding which provides eligible students with fee-free training to help meet the state's current and future workforce needs.

Haytham said having access to free training is helping him pursue his dream of becoming a school teacher.

"It's helped me so much – it's made me take responsibility and commit to studying because opportunities like this don't always happen. I'm very grateful for it, and I wouldn't be here without it.

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TAFE Queensland student Haytham Trueheart Harbus.

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