



# JCU Diploma of Higher Education gives kickstart to dream career

By Kelly Barrett



My story starts far from sunny Townsville, in the small town of Drysdale, Victoria. I grew up wanting to be a singer or a professional dancer, but I later realised that health was a more suitable career path.

After graduating high school in 2019, I studied at the University of Melbourne for a year in the Bachelor of Biomedicine. At this point, I hadn't quite figured out what I was doing with myself and my career goals.

This year, I made the decision to move north and study at James Cook University (JCU) in the Diploma of Higher Education, with the intention of studying medicine in 2022.

My reason for studying the diploma was to improve my grades and to get my math prerequisite, which I hadn't completed in high school.

So far, it has been a great opportunity to settle into university life and work on my academic skills, such as referencing, sourcing material and academic writing. There is also a good selection of subjects to choose from, and our lecturers are



Kelly Barrett is undertaking a diploma of Higher Education at JCU to prepare for further study towards her dream career as doctor.

generally very helpful and personable.

The Diploma of Higher Education is a great course for people who aren't quite sure yet if

they'd like to study at university or the perfect pathway for those who just need a boost to get into their dream course.

Since moving to Townsville, I've

been doing well in my classes and living on campus at Saints Catholic College.

I've even started my new hobby of figure skating, and have started

working as a volunteer skating coach!

The Indigenous Education and Research Centre (IERC) has also been my number one support during my time here at JCU.

I come here to study, to seek help and advice, and to just hang out with other Indigenous students.

In fact, I wouldn't even be studying here at JCU if it wasn't for the IERC running their Winter School and Summer Pre-Program!

It was only after I attended JCU's Indigenous Summer Pre-Program in December 2020 that I had a real 'smack in the face' realisation that medicine is the only career that I could imagine having fulfillment from.

After attending workshops about health care, physiology and anatomy, I couldn't deny that this was what I needed to do with my life.

I was also heavily supported and guided through my options by IERC staff and students who ran the Summer Pre-Program.

I had never wanted to pursue medicine growing up, purely due to the fact that it was hard, and that I thought I just wasn't smart enough. Now, I am studying to hopefully become a doctor!

**Study JCU's Diploma of Higher Education**

If you didn't finish high school or if it's been a while since you studied, the JCU Diploma of Higher Education will help you develop the necessary skills to be a successful university student.

For further information including how to apply, visit [jcu.edu.au/ierc](http://jcu.edu.au/ierc) or contact the Indigenous Education & Research Centre on 07 4781 4676