



Top tips for students

- Always stay connected
- Always say yes to opportunity
- Seek support and advice



Bigumbul woman Audree Campbell.
Picture: Sally Tsoutas

Audree gives back through career in youth social work

Audree Campbell is a proud Bigumbul woman living on Darug land with a strong passion for helping and encouraging the youth of her community to achieve their goals.

A former student of Xavier College Llandilo based in Sydney's west, Audree met the challenge of graduating from Year 12 during a global pandemic, learning some valuable lessons along the way.

"It was not how I imagined celebrating my last year of high school.

"However, I did not allow COVID to ruin my dream of going to university, so I worked with my Aboriginal Coordinator

and applied for the University's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Pathway Program," she said.

"Through this program, I completed a literacy and numeracy exam, and with some hard work, determination and support I was successful and got into Western Sydney University."

Audree is now studying the Bachelor of Social Work at the University and is mentoring primary and high school students as a committed Western Sydney University Student Ambassador.

"I'm proud to be working as a Student Ambassador and to have the opportunity to give back after the support I received

during my schooling."

"I chose to study a Bachelor of Social Work because I was motivated by my community to stay connected to my culture and help those in need who seek help to be guided through life."

Advice and support

Audree believes the right advice and support can make a huge difference for students and can be critical in helping them take the next positive step.

She said the University's connection and respect for Indigenous knowledge, something she became aware of during her time in high school, made it her first choice.

"I've always liked the University for their acknowledgement of my community and for that this was the reasoning for my final decision making when choosing what University to go to."

Audree's goals in the next few years are to complete her degree and to work with young Indigenous kids who need that extra push to step out of their comfort zone – just like she did in her last year of high school.

"A social worker isn't just about dealing with negative situations, my dream as a social worker is to help motivate others, make broader change, and strive for what is right."

Audree's advice for those

considering further studies, including students who may feel unsure of their abilities, is to just 'do it'.

"It is honestly the best experience, yes, university can get stressful, but with the support and time management it will be the best time."

"I would encourage all Indigenous students, and those wanting to learn or further their careers, to consider further studies including at Western Sydney University.

"It is a place where you will not only get a degree under your belt, but it's also a community that you can be part of that values the importance of culture."