



Yuna Tindale | Youth Assistance Funding


Dear Judy and all the Far North Queensland Youth Allowance Fund benefactors,

I would like to start first by saying a sincere thank you for all your generous support. I have recently completed the first term of my Start University Now (SUN) program at Central Queensland University. I was 15 years old at the time and the youngest in my class when I first began this course and it has taught me so much throughout the year.

At first, it was overwhelming to be surrounded by so many intelligent students and to juggle my year 11 studies as well. I persisted and completed my university classes and am honoured to be the top student in a class of 65. I completed my unit of BMSC11003 - Introduction to Medical Sciences with a grade point average of 7.000 and a high distinction mark.

The FNQ Youth Allowance fund financially supported me, providing me with the opportunity to fly from Cairns to Rockhampton and helping to cover the costs of my accommodation. I was able to attend residential school at the CQU campus and complete the necessary practicals and lectures associated with my second assignment. Throughout residential school, I was immersed in different topics of health that I would like to share.

Perhaps the most prominent feature of the lectures I attended was the emphasis on the importance of Indigenous health. I was taught about the areas in remote and rural regions in Australia prominently inhabited by Indigenous Australians where issues such as diabetes and high blood pressure are extremely common health issues and because of a lack of accessibility, clinical measurements such as testing blood glucose levels are rare. I was able to experience being a university student on a campus filled with students three years my senior. At such a young age, I was given the opportunity to sit amongst professors and lectures and have in-depth discussions about the medical field. Learning about these issues have helped me become more motivated to become a medical practitioner in the hopes of removing the gap between modern healthcare systems we can so easily access the limited healthcare received in rural locations. The trip was filled with an abundance of learning and experiences that will benefit me greatly when applying to medicine in grade 12.



Since my studies at CQU, I have taken part in work experience programs at multiple different general practitioner clinics. Normally, work experience programs are not open to school students however, as I received support from the allowance fund, I was given the opportunity to complete work experience. Not only was I offered the opportunity to learn more about the inner management of a health clinic, but I was also offered an incredible opportunity to work at a GP clinic for the rest of my high school studies (one and a half years) as a doctor's assistant.

I studied the first courses of the Bachelor of Medical Sciences while in high school to kick start my dream of pursuing medicine and surgery in my tertiary studies which would not have been possible if not for the generous support of the FNQ Youth Allowance Fund. I would like to say a huge thank you for all your support and allowing me to pursue my dream of becoming a medical practitioner. This experience was life-changing and may be the reason I am able to enter competitive medical programs in the future. I am now about to enter my next terms of study to further continue my education.

I hope to stay in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Yuna Tindale

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