



## Pathways to a career in Child Care and Early Learning

Early Childhood Education and Care Industry Roundtables were held across regional and remote Australia to assist the childcare and early learning sector meet the requirements of the National Quality Framework.



Marcquis Hepburn

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The Illawarra and Shoalhaven Child Care Trainee of the Year 2011, Marcquis Hepburn, says the support of colleagues and the guidance of mentors helped him achieve in a female dominated sector.

Marcquis encourages males to enter into the child care and early learning sector to provide professional role models for children and assist in their learning and development needs.

"I found it tough [at first], but I had support from my team. They provided me with the skills and knowledge and made me the person I am today.

"I feel like I have grown quite a lot in a short time at Clipper Road."

Marcquis is passionate about child care and early learning for children, particularly for those with special needs. Marcquis explains, "Every day is never the same with these children. I have a passion to work with them and celebrate the small steps."

With big goals in mind, Marcquis is undertaking a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care while continuing to work at the Clipper Road Children's Centre.

"Believe in yourself and your abilities, and have goals to achieve," he said.

Marcquis is already preparing for future impacts he will make as an early childhood educator and plans to complete a University Degree in Early Childhood Teaching in the near future.

Ultimately, Marcquis plans to direct his own child care centre, specialising in education and care for children with additional needs.

"Providing the gift of learning is what I love about working in this sector."

Marcquis supports networking in the child care and early learning sector and emphasises the importance of attending courses and conferences with other early childhood educators to ensure a streamlined approach to children's development needs.

