



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.



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Riverina mother-of-three, Tahnee Jamieson, has gone from strength to strength since beginning a career in child care and early learning.

She turned to the sector in 2009 after years of part time work left her feeling professionally unfulfilled and directionless.

"I can vividly recall having a conversation with a close friend of mine.... I was explaining to her this feeling I had of isolation, boredom and dissatisfaction in my professional life."

"I couldn't fathom this as my future."

Tahnee then spotted an advertisement for a Diploma of Children's Services at the local TAFE.

"I thought why not...I had nothing to lose but everything to gain."

At first Tahnee felt like a "fish out of water", but after earning a distinction for her first assignment she had the confidence to approach the Dorothy Waide Centre for Early Learning to arrange a volunteer role once a week which then turned into a job in the After School Care programme.

The following year and a half presented many personal challenges for Tahnee.

"If I had not had the support of friends, colleagues and my TAFE teachers, I would've given in. My studies became a distraction from everything in my life, a focus I needed."

Tahnee remained committed to completing and furthering her studies by enrolling in a Certificate IV in Training & Assessment and her efforts were recognised in 2012 when she was awarded Outstanding Student of the Year for the Griffith region.

Tahnee said she cried when she found out, "that was one of the proudest moments in my career".

Tahnee's graduation in December 2013 was another special occasion and impressively, she went on to win the Community Services & Health Excellence Award, the Campus Outstanding Achievement Award for Griffith and the Riverina Institute Outstanding Achievement Award. A trip to the New South Wales State Training Awards followed, where she won the Riverina Region title. She then went on to Sydney where she was won the State title of Vocational Student and awarded an all-expenses paid trip from Rome to London.



"It was an enormous honour," Tahnee said. "I am still pinching myself."

Tahnee is currently completing a Bachelor of Early Education via distance at the Charles Sturt University and is feeling fulfilled, inspired and most importantly of all, happy.

"My life has changed incredibly in the last few years. I am now fulfilled, I enjoy what I do, I have the knowledge and skills to fulfil my role to the best of my ability, I work alongside amazing people, I have been given opportunities that I never knew existed or thought they were out of my reach and I belong to a passionate, committed industry who strives for the best interests of children each and every day. These children that I work alongside are our future, we as educators are

making a difference in their life. I love seeing them grow and learn every day and feel blessed that their families allow me to be a part of the most important time of their life. They are inquisitive, funny, loving, imaginative...all these wonderful things rolled into one. It is the most rewarding job I have ever had, though is it a job when you love what you do?"

"This has all happened to me because I had a dream and I took a chance at following it."