

2018 NAFEA Scholarship Winner

My name is Charlotte and I am a second year nursing student currently studying at the University of Tasmania. I completed my clinical placement at the Flinders Island Multi-Purpose Centre, where I was involved in both acute and community care. This placement was an opportunity for me to gain awareness into working within the rural community and the challenges facing it. I believe the experience drew myself to the versatility the role offered and challenged me greatly from working in a variety of different situations out of my comfort zone. Working in this remote location allowed me actively analyse various situations and develop creative and critical solutions in high pressure situations. These are key skills needed to further assist me throughout my nursing career and overall personal growth.

I had the opportunity to be involved in so many different aspects of care. One day I would be working in the acute ward, the next day in emergency; to then be working among the community delivering care to people in their homes. I also had the opportunity to work on Cape Barren Island, which is located south of Flinders Island, working with a small Indigenous community. This experience gave me a greater understanding of the cultural differences and the difficulties they face in their daily lives, which provided myself an insight into their community.

The people living on the island were very welcoming and made myself feel a great sense of belonging to their community. It was very easy to make friends and I quickly developed some special friendships with the local populace. From a social aspect, I believe this was one of the best things about a participating in a rural placement. Having a love for the outdoors, I was able to explore the beautiful island and its many pristine and secluded places which were some of the highlights of this amazing experience.

If you are seeking to challenge yourself and develop personal growth, I highly recommended participating in a rural and remote placement. As a result of this, I have taken away many experiences and developed key skills that I could only gain from taking this opportunity, which will further assist me throughout my nursing career. Thank you to the NAFEA team who provided me with the support and assistance needed for this to happen.