

When I was told for my first 6-week placement I was being sent to Flinders Island Multipurpose Centre I was foremost excited, then a little panicked. However, at the end of my placement I was reluctant and very sad to be leaving not only the generous and kind hearted people I had met at the facility but the gorgeous little island I had been lucky enough to call home for the 6 weeks I had been placed.

The Flinders Island Multipurpose Centre was an extraordinary little centre, filled with big personalities. The centre was aged care based, with a small emergency room, a number of acute beds and a GP attached, needless to say I got a range of experiences throughout the duration of my 6 weeks. As the centre was not necessarily one of the busiest, I had experienced I took advantage of the pace and opportunities to learn and consolidate the skills I have. The staff were extraordinary in offering new learning tools, and sessions to help promote my learning and allowing me to make most of opportunities offered.

Rural nursing was always a field that interested me, but my experience at the FIMPC really confirmed that pathway for me. I had such a positive experience and met a range of incredible people that have had unbelievably fantastic and eye-opening experiences that really empowered me to want to follow the same pathway. I was in awe of some of the opportunities I was given whilst at the FIMPC, and the opportunities rural nursing has as a career. Although initially the experience was out of my comfort zone, reflecting on my experience now I would easily have to say that my Flinders Island placement was my most favourite placement. It gave me the opportunities to really facilitate the skills I have and build my confidence before heading into my last placement.

The NAFEA scholarship really enabled me to make the most out of my placement and accept every opportunity. One of the scariest things about being on a rural placement was being away from home and from work, therefore eliminating the possibility of working for 6 weeks. The NAFEA eliminated this worry and made it easy for me to delve into making the most of my placement both through learning opportunities offered and exploring Flinders Island itself. I know for a fact that without the NAFEA scholarship I would have been a lot more anxious throughout my placement affecting my performance and would not have had as much of an opportunity to explore the island.

I would like to thank all those at NAFEA for not only supporting my learning and assisting in keeping alight my interest in rural nursing but for enabling me to have had the best experience on placement, on my favourite placement. Thank you.