

Jennifer Myers

Overview

My name is Jennifer Myers and I am a grade 12 student at North Lakes State College. Last year I was successful in obtaining a school-based traineeship, working towards completing a Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance through the Australian Training Company hosted at the Redcliffe Hospital with Diversity Education training.

Two years ago, I completed a week of work experience at Youthrive, a children's Allied Health clinic in North Lakes and then a two-day careers hospital expedition at the Redcliffe Hospital. These experiences cemented my interest and ignited my passion to help people get back to their previous state of health and achieve their goals. Since then, I was fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to do a school-based traineeship at the Redcliffe Hospital as an Allied Health Assistant which has opened my eyes to the diversity of the Allied Health field and working in the hospital environment. I have thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills and being able to assist patients improve upon their health and wellbeing.

The Vocational Education pathway appealed to me as I have a strong interest in the Allied Health field and I wanted to further explore what was involved in these career pathways, focusing towards Occupational Therapy. After the completion of my traineeship, I will have gained many skills within five sectors of Allied Health including, Medical imaging, Dietetics, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. Upon completing grade 12 and my certificate III in Allied Health assistance, I will continue to study a profession in Allied Health while pursuing a job as an Allied Health assistant in the hospital.

Criterion 1: Career and study achievements

Before commencing this traineeship, I wanted to become an Occupational Therapist because I wanted to empower and encourage people who were effected by illness or disability to be able to live as independently as they possibly can. By undertaking this Vocational Education pathway as a school-based trainee, I have had the opportunity to be exposed to five different Allied Health professions. The experience-based learning and real-world industry exposure that I have gained has really opened my eyes to the wide range of incredible career pathways that all aim to assess and rehabilitate patients to support them in their recovery.

As a school-based trainee, I have loved exploring the diverse disciplines of Allied Health where my role has consisted of working with professionals and patients whilst actively engaging in patient care to gain a better understanding of their roles and the impact it has on the patient's recovery. I independently carry out Allied Health Assistant tasks such as running one-on-one therapy sessions, supporting patient's dietary needs and providing education to both patients and their families before they are discharged. These experiences have really cemented my passion for helping people in all stages of their life and it has made me even more determined to work hard towards a future career in this industry. By choosing the Vocational Education pathway, I have given myself the opportunity to develop my skills and knowledge, as well as seeing a growth within myself as a person.

Although I have always devoted a lot of my time and effort into study and assessments, I feel that this traineeship has amplified my ability to organise, prioritise, problem solve and communicate effectively with individuals of all ages. By undertaking a Vocational pathway, I have grown to be more adaptable, patient and compassionate to the situations around me and these skills have increased my confidence so I can succeed in the real world.

After finishing my traineeship, I am confident that I will have made the right choice in my future career pathway and I will be able to start University one step ahead of the rest due to my qualification and the experience that Vocational training has provided me over the past two years. I will use my experiences in each discipline to enrol into University and also apply for an Allied Health Assistant job position at the hospital to continue my healthcare journey.

Criterion 2: Team and communication skills

When working in a hospital environment, it is vital to work cohesively as a team to provide patients with high quality care. By the end of my traineeship, I will have explored five different disciplines of Allied Health. I have been able to see how diverse they are and learn a whole range of new practical skills and knowledge. Although each discipline is unique, I have seen how each compliment one another by focusing on patient centred care to achieve the best outcome for the patient. Since being a school-based trainee, team-based working allows me to ask more questions and expand upon my skills and knowledge.

Effective communication is a key part of working well as a team and this is regularly carried out in the hospital through verbal communication, group meetings, documentation in patient charts and discussions with patients surrounding their care. I believe my communication skills have improved considerably since working in the hospital as I am frequently communicating with my team, contacting other health departments and providing therapy sessions and other health services to patients.

I frequently encourage my friends and younger brother to pursue a VET certificate course as it's the best pathway to set them up with practical experience and understanding before they take that leap into their possible future career pathways. Whilst advocating for Vocational Education, one of my friends at my dance club decided to pursue a traineeship, working towards completing a Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance and a Certificate III in Health Services with Diversity Education. I was able to spread the word and positively influence her and others by voicing my incredible experiences and opportunities that I have been given through Vocational Education. I also remind them about the support networks available to help and provide guidance when needed. Lastly, I continue to tell them that it is achievable and being able to take that step forward to work in an industry, whether you are certain or not, is an amazing opportunity to further their skills, knowledge and personal growth.

Criterion 3: Ability to be an Ambassador (representative) for training in Australia

As an ambassador of Vocational Education, I would encourage all people from diverse backgrounds to take on an any opportunity by going down the Vocational pathway. School based traineeships are an incredible opportunity to explore different career pathways before deciding post schooling education and employment options. The VET program has incredible support networks and offers thorough training to students. It opens your eyes to the workforce, giving you real world skills and experiences.

The Vocational Education pathway has given me a huge step forward in achieving my future goals and aspirations of progressing to University and pursuing a career in the Allied Health field. This pathway has allowed me to gain a head start in developing the necessary skills and knowledge across five sectors of Allied Health whilst studying at school.

As a school-based trainee, I have learnt that my role isn't limited to being a team member, but also a leader. I have taken initiative to add suggestions and ask my team more questions and because of this, I have developed more leadership qualities. Early this year I volunteered with other second year trainees to mentor the first-year trainees at Caboolture Hospital. We spoke about what to expect when undertaking this traineeship, how to manage schoolwork and modules and we reminded them to access the support networks available to them. I also enjoy volunteering at numerous APDA North Pointe Dance sign on events and club competitions. At the end of 2017, I was awarded club captain of North Pointe Dance and this has allowed me to step into the role as a team leader and be someone who club members can seek advice from.

The combination of theoretical components and development of practical skills have allowed me to become a well-rounded team member. It's critical to understand the theory and knowledge to perform the practical skills effectively and correctly in order to give patients the best possible care. I love the hands on, experience-based learning that Vocational Education courses offer. My traineeship has given me so much exposure to several avenues of Allied Health and in each, I have had many incredible opportunities, acquired a range of professional skills and gained a wealth of knowledge from health professionals who have supported me throughout my traineeship. I couldn't recommend pursuing the Vocational Education pathway more, as it opens so many future possibilities and encourages you to achieve your goals.

Criterion 4: Other qualities and pursuits

When working in a hospital environment, it is vital to work with professionals who have supported me throughout my traineeship. I couldn't recommend pursuing the Vocational Education pathway more, as it opens so many future possibilities and encourages you to achieve your goals.

Along with my schooling, I have a passion for dance and enjoy raising awareness and funds for the Mater Breast Cancer walk. After dancing for over a decade, some of my highlights include dancing at the Opera House and the Sydney International Convention Centre and being a National third placegetter from 2016-2018 and a National Finalist in 2019. At the end of 2016, I won a scholarship for a one-week intensive dance camp at the prestigious Brent Street Studio in Sydney.

For the second year, I will be participating in the Mater 10km Breast Cancer walk with my mum. This is a cause that is very close to our hearts, especially since receiving her diagnosis in 2017. This is an event that we enjoy supporting together and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Throughout the duration of my traineeship, I have come across a few challenges that I was able to work through. An example of this was the additional pressure of completing modules on top of schoolwork and missing a day of school each week, as this was initially quite daunting. I overcame this by taking the initiative to stay organised and manage my time efficiently to meet due dates and hand in high quality school and module assessments. Some of my schooling achievements include, being a silver academic award recipient from 2014-2018, the health subject award winner in 2018 and I have been a student of good standing award recipient from 2012-2019.

As mentioned earlier, I completed a five-day work experience placement at You thrive, a children's Allied Health clinic and the two-day hospital careers expedition at the Redcliffe Hospital. Being involved in multiple sessions across Speech, Occupational and Psychology sessions and playgroups and the experience hearing from key speakers at the hospital, including Operational, Medical Imaging, Speech Pathology, Medicine, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Nursing were important in my pursuit for becoming an Allied Health professional.

I'm honoured to be able to make a real difference to people's lives at just seventeen years of age. Since starting my traineeship, I have learnt to push myself out of my comfort zone and because of this, I have grown and matured as a person. This traineeship has made me realise that my future goals and aspirations are achievable, and I am now even more determined to pursue and excel in the field of Allied Health.

Attachments

Please attached the following:

- 2 x Headshots in .jpg/.jpeg format (.jpg/.jpeg minimum size: 500kb) **Mandatory**

Headshots must be high resolution and at least 500kb in size. Headshots must include your head and shoulders and should be taken front on (no selfie style photos). These headshots will represent you and should be of a professional standard.

Provide supporting material, such as:

- newspaper articles
- photocopies of awards or certificates
- letters of support or commendation
- publicity photos of achievements relevant to key aspects of your nomination.

Attachment file sizes cannot exceed 10MB. Accepted file types include JPG, JPEG, PNG, PDF, DOC, DOCX, XLS and XLSX. No multimedia items (e.g. YouTube videos) or discs will be accepted with nominations. **STRICTLY No more than 5 attachments (does not include headshots)** will be accepted.

I have attached my 2 headshots (head and shoulders) | ✓

I have read and understand the **Queensland Training Awards conditions of entry** and submit this nomination in accordance with these conditions. | ✓

I consent that: | ✓

1. All nominees whose applications are shortlisted must be available during the judging period in April/May and August for telephone interviews. It is the responsibility of the nominee to make the QTA team aware for any commitments that they may have during this period. If unavailability is not communicated in advance, there is a chance that the nominee will not be able to progress as a finalist.
Round 1 telephone interviews : 20 April to 1 May 2020
Round 2 telephone interviews : 3 to 14 August 2020
2. All finalists are required to attend the regional, state and national awards presentation ceremonies, if applicable, as presence for the announcement of the winner is mandatory. Winners of the Queensland Training Awards (excluding the categories: Community Training Initiative and Equity VET Student) will be nominated by Queensland for the Australian Training Awards (ATA). All nominations will be considered by national judging panels and finalists for each award category will be required to attend the ATA finalists week in any state the ATA nominate.
3. By applying, all applicants of the Queensland Training Awards agree that all non-confidential details from their nominations, photographs and recordings can be used online, in any broadcast and print media and in a range of publicity, social media and promotional materials by the Queensland Government. The Queensland Government reserves the right to use all or part of any material generated (photographs, film footage, application submissions or any detail) for the purpose of the Queensland Training Awards or for publication online, in print or other broadcast media, for publicity, promotional materials (including departmental and ministerial Christmas cards and social media activity) or campaigns related to the Queensland Government.
4. Finalists and winners of the Queensland Training Awards may be required to participate in media interviews, promotional events and activities. *

I have read my/our submission and agree that all content and claims are correct to the best of my/our ability. | ✓

I have entered the necessary information and attached the files | ✓

Log in to qta.awardsplatform.com to see complete nomination attachments.

	
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Jen 1.jpg	59 KiB

	
Attachment type Workplace photo	
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Letter of support

Jen- references.pdf1.6 MiB


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Photocopy of award or certificate

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