

KIRSTY ALLEN



FIND A CAREER YOU LOVE. PROFILE No 13



Course: **Certificate III in Children's Services**

GTO: **Work and Training, TAS**

Host Employer: **Howrah Beach Child Care Centre**

How did you make the career choice that you've made. Did you go to a Group Training Organisation?

Since grade ten I've wanted to work with children. I got in touch with Work and Training because they had a childcare traineeship advertised. I put in an application, I had a lot of interviews and finally had an interview at the centre that I'm working at now and got selected for the job. I had to study my certificate III with TAFE while working full time. Now I'm doing my diploma.

What career opportunities do you think you've got long term?

There are always childcare jobs available and new centres popping up everywhere. You can go into being a Nanny anywhere in the world and go on from your diploma and become an early childhood teacher. Or I could run my own room at a childcare centre.

How important is that combination of study and then working hands on to you?

It's very important, it makes my study a lot easier. I'm earning a lot quicker and it's easier to do assignments cause I can relate it back to my work.

You've left school, you're earning money, you didn't go to university, you don't have a HECS debt. How important is work and your lifestyle balance?

I think it's really good, it's enabled me to do a lot of things. My diploma will be over in two years. At Uni you'd be there for years and years.

What are some of your major achievements to date?

Since I finished my traineeship I've been put on as a permanent staff member in the senior room. I also got runner up for a Work and Training award and I was a finalist in the Group Training National awards.

What advice would you give a year ten student who can't decide what they want to do?

Do a vocational subject, a VET subject at school. You get to go on placements, that's how I got into childcare. You do your assignments and everything and it's hard work, but you also get to go out and do the actual job. I went into childcare centres and I did all types, like family day care, long day care and centre based

care, that's how I found what I really wanted to do. Traineeships are great, you get to work, you're earning your own money but also studying at the same time, its excellent I think.

You've found something you really love.

When I first applied for the traineeship my mum wasn't sure if I was doing the right thing because we didn't know a lot. Mum's really happy that I made that decision and she's supported me all the way.

Would you have anything to say to parents of young people who have those concerns?

There are people who talk to parents about it. I know Work and Training do. They spoke to my mum about it and told her all about it and how it would happen and what I'd be doing.

What do your friends think about what you do?

They think I'm pretty lucky. Loaded as they say, ha ha. I get to go on a lot of holidays and I've bought a new car and I'm planning to go to Europe and go on the Kokoda Trail and all of that. Yeah they're pretty stoked.

Very cool, OK, thanks Kirsty.

Kirsty completed a Certificate II in Community Services whilst enrolled at St Mary's College. A high achiever, she received an Academic Excellence Award at school and was a finalist in the Tasmanian State Training Awards in 2006. Kirsty demonstrates such enthusiasm for working with children that she is now employed by Howrah Beach Child Care Centre and is completing a Diploma in Children's Services. Her ambition is to complete an Advanced Diploma and one day manage a Child Care Centre.

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