

Sherrie Schembri, 1st year Diploma of Nursing student,  
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I once read a quote that says: *"A dream does not become a reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work."*

My name is Sherrie Schembri, a TAFE student taking up a Diploma of Nursing in Hervey Bay Campus, and this is my story.

In the middle of the year 2020, it is sad to learn that learning has been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak worldwide. Coronavirus is one of the many reasons that at first, I am hesitant to continue my dreams. When I was young, my ambition is to become a Nurse, but I took up a different course because of the lack of financial support coming from my family. But I always knew that I have the determination and courage to do it even we are in poverty back in my country. So instead of doing a pathway for Nursing, I took up Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service. During the process, honestly, I struggled to speak English. Apart from being ashamed to ask for help from my subject organizers, at school, I needed extra help to understand particular topics. I am beyond far from everybody else because they can afford tutors but I cannot. To help myself, I worked hard, burn the midnight oil, until one day my school sent me to Singapore to study my placement. It gave me a chance to practice my English and to be comfortable in speaking the language. And from that experience, I also learned to live alone and be independent in life and learned to save money.

After I finish my degree, I worked in the travel industry where I explored the different parts of the world where it made me develop my professionalism as well as it helped me build my confidence in speaking the universal language. Then I legally immigrated to Australia from the Philippines with the help of my husband. And now he inspired me to continue my dreams to become a nurse.

I am currently working with aged care population in the community. Still, I have limited my working hours because it is my priority now to pursue my dreams of becoming a nurse. I plan to continue my success not only by serving the aged care facilities in the community, but I also want to learn more clinical skills to work in the hospital.

Before the year ends, I am happy to share to you all that I am finishing my 1st semester at TAFE Hervey Bay, and I am so glad to learn that I was chosen to receive a scholarship from TAFE Queensland. Thank you for your generous financial help towards my education. Now I am looking forward to my second semester. Nothing is impossible when you believe in God and yourself.