



Q1) Name: Chrystale Langford

Q2) Current role: Student

Q3) How long have you been a nurse/midwife? Going into my third year of training

Q4) Why did you want to you want to become a nurse/midwife?

Being a nurse was something I always wanted to do since I was a little girl. My mum and Aboriginal dad were nurses. It was a calling I felt and with what I personally saw and experienced I wanted to make a difference for all

Q5) What were the enablers and barriers for you to complete your degree?

Pathway into nursing/midwifery – how did you get to where you are today?

Enablers are my supports in University, The Ngunnawal centre, teachers, family, my Ngunnawal community as well as community and family around Australia

Barriers are the miseducation that is seen as fat in society. There are assumptions by other students about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students when they attend University that we do not have to work hard as we are given passes. I found we have to work harder to prove ourselves more

I started my journey around 25 years ago and was in a different medical area. I then become a carer looking after people with disabilities and in aged care. I started my training and then went on to have 8 children. After going through the medical system having numerous children with disabilities it reignited my passion and strong desire to advocate to those who need it. Here I am, living my dream.

Q6) Do you believe our nurses and midwives are role models for our communities? if yes do you think it is a priority that we increase our workforce and why?

Yes I do, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives are pivotal in helping communities we reside in or travel to. It helps build trust and connections which will hopefully help aid in closing the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It brings me hope when I hear that people are willing to seek help when they hear an Aboriginal student nurse is available and they want to come in have a yarn and know they will be accepted and listened to with no judgements.

Making a difference in Community?

For the past 2 years I have been running Party Pals which I parties for children with Autism and other disabilities who do not get invited to parties from their school peers or other families. The parties give the children a chance to enjoy a birthday party and make friends with other children who don't see a difference and just want to have fun. We make sure there are no costs to the family and everyone can enjoy themselves

CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NURSES AND MIDWIVES

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