

Name: Samantha Jarvie

Current role: Registered nurse

How long have you been a nurse/midwife? 5 years

Why did you want to become a nurse/midwife? I wanted to follow in my mother's footsteps and be the new generation for change for both nurses and Aboriginal peoples in healthcare.

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? My biggest barrier was the academic side of studying as I understood all the materials and had the knowledge but lacked capacity to transfer that on to paper. I also had some difficulties at university where I had at one point failed an essay for my Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander class because the content was 'incorrect' about our first people's history. I was lucky enough to have a mentor in my Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander unit, Richard, who inspired and pushed me to continue my studies while completely supporting me. Having both parents who had worked in different aspects of healthcare assisted to drive me and challenge my way of thinking.

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? I believe we are not just role models; our traditional methods of healing will continue to shape the healthcare world in Australia. I am excited to continue the push of introducing traditional healers into our hospital systems and working along side them. I am currently working on a project to not only highlight our peoples but inspire more of our people to finish their studies and join us in an amazing profession.