

**Name:** Sienna Kolatowicz

**Current role:** Registered Nurse and current Student Midwife

**How long have you been a nurse/midwife?** 1 year as RN and just commenced my Post Graduate Diploma in Midwifery

**Why did you want to you want to become a nurse/midwife?**

- I have a strong aspiration for providing Aboriginal Women and their babies with culturally safe care and advocate for birthing on country
- I want to empower all women to have a holistically safe and natural birth experience as I'm very passionate about providing women with the right education on natural birth
- I also want to be a great role model for future Aboriginal Nurses and Midwives and show that it is achievable to go to university and get a good education

**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?**

The amount of support from my family and friends where incredible, Kulbardi from Murdoch University helped myself achieve outstanding academic grades with providing myself with a private tutor and always supporting me, being the recipient of the Puggy Hunter Scholarship helped finically as clinical placements limit the ability to work and the cost of text books etc. are high, and Mel Robinson from CATSINaM who was WA's mentor helped myself with getting a Graduate Program.

Some barriers include, having to move away from home and family made things difficult especially as my mum was working in the Kimberly's, so relied on extended family a lot. I found it hard to work part time, study and take part in clinical placements made it difficult at times.

I completed high school in 2011 and had no idea what I wanted to do with my life, I knew I always wanted to go to university but not sure what to study. As my mum was a teacher I felt that it was important that I also got a degree and make her proud. I went into see the birth of my nephew and was in admiration of the midwives and from that day on I wanted to be a midwife, so I worked and saved up money for the big move from little Kalgoorlie to Perth which took a few years to do. I started my Bachelor Nursing with Murdoch University in 2015 part time at first then went full time. Upon completion of my Bachelor of Nursing in 2018, I was fortunate enough to be offered a Graduate Nurse position with Fiona Stanley Hospital for 12 months, where I gained some great skills that have assisted myself in now commencing my Post Graduate Diploma of Midwifery with Curtin University this year, which im very excited to start.

**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?**

Absolutely, I believe that the Australian Health Care System needs more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives as it is so important to have us working within the healthcare settings to close the gap and ensure our people are getting the appropriate care they need.