



## Media Release

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### Virginia's nursing her way to the top

Virginia Burridge has landed her dream job.

The TAFE Queensland North student is a success story, snapping up an Assistant in Nursing position at the Townsville Hospital.

"There were so many applicants at the time I applied and I am blessed to be one of the few successful candidates.

"I am currently studying a Diploma of Nursing at TAFE Queensland North and I sing the praises of this course, without it I would not have received that job. This journey has opened many doors for me," she said.

Fifty-two year old Ms Burridge said her career in the health industry had been a long time coming.

"I grew up in Papua New Guinea and went to school with many disadvantaged and sick children.

"I was a Red Cross volunteer when I was about 10 years old and I helped to dress the wounds at the school clinic.

"Later on as a teenager, I volunteered to help the school nurse distribute malaria tablets or cod liver oil to sick children," she said.

But Ms Burridge put her career dreams on hold to raise a family.

"My children are all grown up and when they left home I started wondering, what's next for me?"

"I went online and found the Certificate III in Health Services Assistance course the day before class started at TAFE Queensland North, so I enrolled straight away."

"Being a mature age student I was not too sure what I was in for."

But any first day jitters were quickly replaced with awe.

"Going to class was absolutely brilliant.

"The lessons were very inclusive and focused on both practical and theory based learning.

“The course gave me an insight that nursing is definitely what I want to do, so furthering my studies with TAFE Queensland North and enrolling in the diploma course was an easy decision,” she said.

Ms Burridge said being on campus at Pimlico has renewed her passion for learning.

“I’m really enjoying this course and down the track I hope to use my TAFE diploma as a pathway to university.

“I would also like to use my new skills to help the less fortunate in the future, both here in Australia and in Papua New Guinea,” she said.

Ms Burridge said it is never too late to go back to study.

“I would absolutely encourage other mature age students to find a course that suits them and enrol, just go for it, you have nothing to lose.

“We all at some stage had a passion and many parents put it aside to raise children.

“But now is the time for those parents to take up study. It gives you so many new opportunities, it has already given me so much and I am so thankful,” Ms Burridge said.

TAFE Queensland North General Manager, Joann Pyne said studying and learning new skills is a great experience.

“Our diploma courses are perfect options for people who want to land their dream job, build their skills for the industry they are already in or for people who are looking for a career change.

“TAFE Queensland North also has a variety of educational counselling and learning support services available to help our students succeed and graduate.

“We understand that every student has a different learning style and we have a range of flexible study options to suit everyone,” Ms Pyne said.

To find out more about studying with TAFE Queensland North visit the Pimlico campus, call 1300 656 959 or visit [tafenorth.edu.au](http://tafenorth.edu.au).