



MEDIA RELEASE

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From TAFE student to radio star

There's a new voice gracing the Black Star airwaves.

Ewamian woman, Lavinia Collins has landed a job with Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media (QRAM) in Cairns after graduating from TAFE Queensland North with a Certificate III in Media (Radio).

"I really enjoyed the course and I had no idea that QRAM were keeping an eye on me until they offered me a job; I felt like I was the luckiest woman on earth!"

Miss Collins said the study opportunity has changed her life.

"A year ago I was lacking direction and I really needed to start making better lifestyle choices.

"My grandmother was on my back about enrolling in this course for weeks!

"I eventually gave in and signed up and by the second week of the course I knew I had found my calling.

"At first I was feeling a bit nervous about talking on the radio, but I soon came to realise that it was my happy place," Miss Collins said.

Black Star General Manager, Gerry Pyne said Lavinia has plenty of spark.

"Lavinia's liveliness is infectious; she brings a youthful enthusiasm and laughter to the team.

"Lavinia is always ready to work, eager to do research for interesting stories for her listeners and adds light-heartedness and fun to her announcing," Mr Pyne said

Miss Collins can be heard on-air in Napranum and Yarrabah between 3:00pm and 6:00pm.

"This TAFE course really helped to motivate me to turn my life around," Miss Collins said.

"I got to meet other people, make new friends and I've learned how to work as part of a team.

"I'd encourage other young indigenous people out there to go to TAFE.

"You never know where you could end up when you graduate," Miss Collins said.

TAFE Queensland North General Manager, Joann Pyne said it is wonderful to know that Lavinia is succeeding outside the classroom.

"Lavinia is a great example of how the right training can really put people on a pathway to employment.

"We're very proud of Lavinia and everything that she is achieving," Ms Pyne said.