

Video file name: Arcadia Meldrum taking the guesswork out of her future through VET

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Arcadia Meldrum (00:22):

Being active is actually really important to me because I not only like being fit and healthy and feeling good, it's the fact that it's actually fun and enjoyable and you get to meet a lot of people through fitness and sport, which is really good for me. I'm very much a people person.

The first time I went overseas was actually to New Zealand playing club sports. Got the opportunity to go over there and play hockey all over the North Island. So, my love of travel definitely started with that first trip to New Zealand. That definitely sparked my interest in wanting to learn about tourism and travel.

Through studying tourism at school it gave me the opportunity to venture in the workplace then and get a job at Rydges. So the events that I did at Rydges were a lot of weddings, business events, and Dancing with the Stars, which was for charity. We did a lot of that. So yeah, it was pretty unreal.

Without the fundamental skills of that, I wouldn't be able to have the confidence to walk straight into a workplace and be like, "Can I have the opportunity to do a work placement with you?" So I think skills like that, people skills, that are really, really important, to kids that aren't really an academic learner, as such, and wanna get a more hands-on understanding of what life's like outside of school, I think that's where VET (vocational education training) really played a large part in my life.

So at the moment I'm working at Newman College as a sports teacher's assistant. It is a little bit weird in a way, 'cause I obviously was at school when these guys were at school at the same time, and being a teacher's assistant is very different. It's a different view on teaching as well, and obviously learning. So, yeah. It kinda has come full circle from being a student to a teacher myself. So I'm currently studying a Certificate III in sport and recreation, but the only difference is I get to do it from home.

Bec (2:03):

The biggest misconception that we had was that Arcadia wouldn't be eligible to go to university, which we've seen now that she can.

Andrew (2:09):

Yeah. We ended up going to Newman College's information night. To be honest, I was really blown away with what they offered, because you can go to university, you can go and do an apprenticeship, you can go and do a traineeship. So the opportunities really are endless.

Arcadia Meldrum (02:27):

I think the good things about studying from home are mostly that the teachers are still there. You're able to email and then they're there for you straight away. And I think also being able to do stuff in your own time and at your own pace is always really good as well. I'm really happy where I am at the moment. It's a really great environment and the people are really great, and obviously, that makes you happy and excited about coming to work every day. And being able to work with the students is just super exciting and well worth it.