

Hannah Shanks-Colla, Certificate III in Business



With the hands on experience that this job could give me, it would give me that idea of what I wanted to major in.

What do you do on a day-to-day basis?

My job is full of many things. At the start of each year we administer school immunisations to every high school in the Wangaratta Council area. It's a very busy time of year, with lots of paper work to do. At the start of each month, we hold community immunisation sessions for the general public to come along to and at the start of winter we do flu vaccines for many businesses in and around Wangaratta. However, immunisations are just a small part of what we do.

We regularly conduct annual inspections of food premises such as cafes, restaurants, and take-away stores, as well as beauty salons, hairdressers and tattoo parlours. We're responsible for telling supermarkets to take certain products off their shelves if a food recall has been given out and in the case of food poisoning we work alongside the Department of Health to get to the bottom of what caused the food poisoning in the first place and to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

We complete septic tank inspections as we are a rural council and we also respond to numerous complaints about many different things like noise for example. It's difficult to say what I do on a day-to-day basis, because my day is different each day, some days may consist of an entire day in the office, while others could begin at 7 in the morning and go till 6 at night.

Along with this gap year program, I'll be completing a Certificate III in Business to help give me extra skills and knowledge along the way. My job is great. I happily get up every morning to go to work because I love it. The only thing that I would say is bad is that fact that I have to get up early, but that's not very important.

What do you plan to do once you complete your traineeship?

Once I finish my year here at Wangaratta, I'll be heading to Deakin University to study Biomedical Science, with a major in Environmental Health. I'll come back to Wangaratta for 9 weeks, every year, to work full time and once my degree is finished, if a place exists for me, I'll be back again to work full time for the Rural City of Wangaratta.

I would highly recommend to anyone that sees a position available, similar to mine, to take it on. Apply for the job. Get hands on experience, especially if you don't know what you want to do. It's fantastic and I can guarantee that you would love it as much as I do. The only catch to my job is that I needed to be accepted into university, which for me was not a problem because I knew that I wanted to go to university, but I'm sure there are many other jobs out there like mine, that don't have those strings attached.

The best thing to do if you don't know what you want to try as many things as you can, because that's the best way to get an understanding of what you might want to pursue a career in.

What is your traineeship qualification?

During my gap year, I am undertaking a careers building program at the Rural City of Wangaratta in environmental health. I found this position in the Wangaratta Chronicle on the Council's web page. In the beginning I thought that environmental health was about plants, trees and the environment, but after researching it a bit more I discovered that it wasn't about that 'particular' environment, but more the environment that surrounds us.

Why did you apply for this traineeship?

The reason I ended up applying for this position is because I was never sure of what I wanted to do after university. I'll be completing a Bachelor of Biomedical Science and I never knew what I wanted to do after that bachelor was completed

