

MARNIE MATASSONI

TRAINEESHIP, INTERCHANGE, UMFC

What have you been up to this year? At the end of last year, I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do and I definitely didn't see myself going to university. I started applying for many different jobs and traineeships based around Albury/Wodonga. I soon got accepted for the traineeship at Upper Murray Family Care's Interchange program. With my traineeship this year I've worked with a huge age group of participants that attend Belvoir Special School at the Interchange's Before School Activities, After School Activities and School Holiday Program.

Also through the traineeship I'm completing a Certificate IV in Disability. The certificate has been so rewarding in terms of my traineeship as the course is related to different aspects of my job from working with the children to behind the scenes things like OH&S and the legal and ethical concepts of disability.

What steps did you take to apply for the position? I heard about this position through Sandie when discussing different opportunities for me to undertake in 2019. I quickly applied for the position as it fully sparked an interest, and handed in my resume and CV letter outlining criteria for the job requirement. I was then contacted for a formal interview ran by two of the staff member at Interchange UMFC where I answered questioned about my past experience in the workforce, my skills and personality to determine if I was suitable for the job or not.

Describe a typical day at work: A typical day at work includes updating and creating client files, completing my Certificate IV and ensuring there are resources and activities for the after school program. Once participants have arrived volunteers and staff participate in different inside and outdoor play and activities with participants before parents pick them up at 5:30pm, where I communicate to parents any achievements, activities participated in and if there were any challenges clients and staff together have overcome.

What has been the highlights of your traineeship? The biggest highlight of the traineeship would definitely be the participants that I work with every single day. Over the course of the year, I've built friendships with the kids, I've learnt their likes and dislikes, their hobbies, their vocabulary, their challenges and how they overcome these challenges. I love when the participants look forward to coming to Interchange to talk, to play and to relax with you and to continue to build a friendship with them; when they look forward to coming you know that you are doing something right and that's always so rewarding.

Why should students consider doing a traineeship? I believe that year 12 grads should consider a traineeship as it is a great opportunity to gain experience, skills and confidence in the workforce and to determine if it was something for them or not before jumping into a university course. I also believe considering a traineeship if students don't really know what to do in the future; traineeships are great ways to be introduced to many different aspects workforces.

What are your plans for 2020? I never saw myself going to university whilst I was at school as I never fully knew what I wanted to. But since working at Interchange I've interacted with different services that benefit and assist the kids that I work with and others around the local community and I quickly became very interested in the work of a Speech Pathologist. So I've applied for Speech Pathology and/or General Health and Rehabilitation at CSU and hoping to begin this soon.

