

Allied Health Assistant



An Australian School-based Apprenticeship Case Study Industry Skills Council

Learning about Physiotherapy as an ASBA

Bribie Island physiotherapist, Rena Sodhi is enthusiastic about the benefits of Australian School-based Apprenticeships (ASBAs). Over the last two years she has employed two students from the local school, Bribie Island State High, which is near the Gold Coast in Queensland.

Samantha Lemke began working at the physiotherapy practice last year as an ASBA when she was in Year 12. When she finished school she was able to transfer over to an Australian Apprenticeship and continue working there full-time.

Samantha had an interest in Health Care work, had researched careers and even done a number of massage courses before she started. The ASBA pathway seemed a great, practical way to move into a career in this area of health care. She is really enjoying the experience. "It's a real eye opener to see whether you are capable of working in this environment," she says.

At a glance

- An ASBA arrangement with one employer, one student and a RTO.
- ASBA student Samantha Lemke spent two days a week at work and three days at school while she finished Year 12. She was also able to work Friday afternoons to help her employer. When she finished school she began working full-time as an Australian Apprentice.
- Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE is the RTO and uses a flexible mode with workbooks and phone and email access for students. Assessment is workplace-based. Students receive help from their workplace or the TAFE and sometimes school.
- Students help with reception, data entry and general administration. They also assist physiotherapists with positioning patients, preparing hot packs and electrotherapy for patients, and measuring patients for certain braces.

Key outcomes

Samantha plans to continue her study specialising in physiotherapy assistance when she finishes her Australian Apprenticeship and wants to continue working in the industry as a Physiotherapy Assistant (Aide).

Her employer, Ms Sodhi, is more than happy with the opportunities the ASBA pathway provides to both students and her business. She is happy to continue taking local high school students. She believes the Certificate III training is important and students will gain a more holistic picture of the Allied Health industry this way, as well as improving their communication and interpersonal skills.

Christine Schultheis, Industry Training Manager at Sunshine Coast Institute of TAFE concludes, "It's great! It's a wonderful opportunity to have exposure to the workplace in an area of interest, and to get a practical understanding and a qualification at the same time."



CAREER FACTS

- *ASBA qualification: Certificate III in Health Services Assistance (Allied Health Assistance)*
- *Job: Work as a Physiotherapy Aide, or Assistant to a range of Allied Health professionals, (eg Occupational Therapist)*
- *Career path: Further study in Physiotherapy Assistance, other Allied Health fields at Cert IV, Massage, Complementary and Alternative Therapies etc*

"The Certificate III will open up doors, she will never be short of work."

Rena Sodhi,
Physiotherapist, Bribie Island

Further information

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