

Disability Work

An Australian School-based Apprenticeship Case Study 

ASBAs enable careers that matter

Murgon State High School is a small rural high school near Kingaroy, north west of Brisbane. It has a strong Australian School-based Apprenticeships (ASBAs, or SATs in QLD) program, with very good local business and community support so when local disability support service Hub Community Network (HCN) was approached by the high school to take an ASBA, they were interested in becoming involved.

Kirsty Smith began working with HCN when she was in Year 11, and 18 months later she's really enjoying the experience. She is currently completing the Certificate III in Disability Work and her time is spent supporting people with disabilities as well as reception and administration duties.

Kirsty was already involved as a volunteer with HCN before she began her traineeship, so had an idea of what to expect from the work. She spends one day a week at the service, and four days at school, which has a modified timetable to accommodate ASBA students so they can catch up on classes they miss while at work.

At a glance

- An ASBA arrangement with one employer, one student and a RTO.
- Kirsty completes a minimum of 48 days on-the-job each year, in both Year 11 and 12, and completes her theory work with the support of the school and workplace at other times, either at school, at home or in the workplace. (Note: Other states and territories have different arrangements for ASBA rules for hours etc).
- Wide Bay Institute of TAFE delivers the training through flexible mode using workbooks and phone and email access. A trainer visits to assist learning and assessment is workplace-based.
- Kirsty is a useful additional staff member who has quickly become competent and skilled in her role as trainee.

Key outcomes

Kirsty was short-listed in the Queensland State Training Awards as ASBA for her region.

She is on track to gain a Certificate III in Disability Work by the time she completes Year 12, and will be able to gain work as a Disability Support worker if she chooses. She can also take the next step in a career in Disability Services through further study for a Certificate IV in Disability Work.

Robyn Graham, Service Manager at HCN, has found Kirsty a great asset to the organisation. "The experience has increased her interpersonal and communication skills, empathy and ability to problem solve," she says.

The service is happy to offer ASBAs to more students in future years.



CAREER FACTS

- *ASBA Qualification: Certificate III in Disability Work*
- *Jobs: Work as a Disability Support Worker, Personal Care Assistant, Community Care Worker, Home Care Assistant etc*
- *Career Pathway: Further study Certificate IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and University Courses*

"It is refreshing to have such a young, vibrant and enthusiastic employee amongst our team."

Robyn Graham
Service Manager
Hub Community Network

Further information

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