****Student success stories****

****Meet Nakia****

****Family upbringing****

**So I was born in Mannum, that’s in the country Murray Lands. My parents had me when they were really young. They were in Year 12 still, halfway through. So I lived with my Nana a lot. She’s passed away now, and she passed away half way through Year 12. So that was a big thing for me since she was such a big part of my life. She was really influential and she always pushed me. She was such a big facilitator; she never gave me the answers to anything, no matter what it was. She’d help me figure it out, instead of giving it to me. She didn’t spoon feed me at all. I was an only child and none of my cousins lived with me. It was just me and my Nana, my Nana’s sister, brother.so I was always influenced by older people. I think I grew up very quickly due to that because my other cousins they all lived in Adelaide, Riverland, different places. It was just me, left to my own devices.**

****SACE education****

**When PLP came it got to the point where I said, I am going to have to decide my future and I’m only 16, 17. I don’t know where I’m going to go, what I’m going to do. Looking back at all the teachers that I’ve had I thought maybe that’s the path I want to go, so PLP helped me a lot and I got to do work experience in a school and that helped me find out if that’s where I want to go. It got me into going on my pathway of going to uni. You’re not going to have things that you want to do, which is alright but it helps you to grow further. Even though you don’t want to do it you’re learning more and you’re finding out about different things.**

****Role models****

**I think I aspire to be like my kindy teacher. She was the one who incorporated Aboriginal culture and my Aboriginal culture and we learnt about things and we cooked damper and stuck it in the ground and that’s how I learnt to do that. We did bushwalks all the time and she’d take us out. We went to see plays, Aboriginal plays and she’d bring in people who would come and talk to us about our culture and where we come from and that kind of stemmed.. I thought not many kids know. Going to high school, no one knew where they were from, like all the people in my high school, apart from me. They just had no idea and I thought well, I want to teach kids about what their culture is, even if it’s not Aboriginal culture, it could be any culture. Everyone should learn about it because I don’t know much about other cultures but I want to learn more about it and I want other people to learn about it and for children to know about who they are and where they come from.**

****Career goals and aspirations****

**Over 10 years I hope that I am either teaching or working somewhere in education.**