****Student success stories****

****Meet Lakkari****

****Family upbringing****

**I’m the eldest of three. I have two younger sisters; one is 17; one is 13. I’ve grown up in the western beach suburbs of Adelaide.**

I went to a small Catholic primary school down at Taperoo from reception to Year 7, then in Year 8 I moved to St Michael’s College at Henley Beach.

****Cultural heritage****

**I’m a Ngarrindjeri woman, which is down south. It’s a major part of my life. My family’s really strong with their indigenous culture and heritage. My Grandpa was a really strong advocate and so is my Dad. We’ve learnt a lot about our indigenous heritage and it’s played such a major role in my life.**

****SACE education****

**I think the number one thing that SACE did for me is that it made me an independent learner which when you’re going off to university is really important. It helped me to develop my communication skills and my ability to write really well which is important thing in the job that I aspire to be, aspire to do. It’s helped me to figure out who I am and what I want to do. I enjoyed doing my SACE but it wasn’t always easy there were a lot of challenges along the way. I think the important thing is to believe in yourself and know that you can get past them and find the right supports and be really strong and really resilient.**

****Advice for future students****

**If you work really hard and have really good time organisation you can end up doing things like having a social life, having a part time job, playing sport but still doing really well at school. I think picking subjects that you really like to do because then you’re more likely to work hard and actually enjoy them and to just work hard. Have fun because it is a fun time in your life and when you look back, you really do miss school.**

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

**At the moment I’m doing Speech Pathology. That’s my study; I’m in my third year. I’m at placement as well, which is really exciting. I have a part time job as a casual Speech Therapist which is good, that links in really nicely. I think my long term career goal is to own my own Practice. I’m not sure what area I want to work in but I definitely do want to work with indigenous children so that might be owning my own Practice and working with them but for now I’m just happy to work hard, graduate and get a job where I can.**