****Student success stories****

****Meet Kaitlin****

****Family upbringing****

**Well I lived with my Dad through half of my childhood and we lived down south and we moved up to Murray Bridge, moved to Nairne, back down to the city so I did a bit of moving, went to a few different schools.**

**My dad got married when I was about 7 to my step mum. They’ve had 3 kids now. They’re... Harry’s 4, Charlie’s almost 6 and Lucy’s 9 months old I think.**

****Cultural heritage****

**It’s always been a part of it. It’s on my Mum’s side and my Mum and my Aunty and their Mum, so my Gammy they’ve been a big part of it in the community. My Gammy was an interpreter she came down to Adelaide, she worked with communities and my aunties at Flinders University at the Aboriginal Centre, Yunggorendi so that’s a big part of her work too. So I’ve always been surrounded by it but I think now I’ve been doing little projects with my Aunty I’m actually going on a journey and understanding all that. So it’s become more a part of my life now and I’m actually understanding it.**

****Secondary school education****

**I think it was high school that I started to get a real passion for science and just learning how the world works. In Yr 11 and 12 some of my interests were really Biology, Chemistry relating it to the body and so I got to the end of Yr 12 thinking that I could go into Medical Science, something like that and Flinders had a degree that suited that. But I’m still working my way around it and I still don’t know what I want to do but that’s kind of exciting.**

****SACE education****

**I actually found SACE not as hard and not as stressful as people might think it is and I think that’s because I really worked hard. I’d gotten to those years knowing how to work hard, knowing how to learn. So I just went with it, I did it and I did enjoy it. Especially Yr 12 because there were more specialised subjects than I think there have ever been and you get to choose them. You get to learn about things that you are interested in. I did enjoy them, little bit stressful sometimes, a lot of hard work but it’s really worth it when you work hard.**

****SACE strategies****

**I need to plan myself and structure myself and that’s a big part of doing it. If things get really overwhelming, like I’ve got exams and assignments, I’ve got a few other things outside of school I just sit down, write things down, strategise when I’m going to do things. I need to plan myself.**

****Role models****

**I think my Dad to begin with, all through my childhood. Really inspiring. I have a lot of him in me. He’s taught me how to be a decent person, a worldly person but also to really work hard and work for what you’ve got. My Dad, my Step-Mum and my Mum as well, the last few years I’ve found them to be a big part of my life in a way that they’ve been really supportive and they’ve always made me feel that they’re proud and that’s been a really big influential factor in how I feel about myself and what I can achieve.**

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

**I’m doing Bachelor of Medical Science, it’s my first year. I’m doing it because it’sjust one of my interests. It aligns with the things I like to learn about but I don’t think I’m going to be pursuing a pathway in that. I think, at the moment, it’s an interest but the last few years, high school, coming into uni I found other passions that I’m wanted to go into that I haven’t really before which is – human rights, humanitarian work that I haven’t really been a part of but I think it’s really exciting, the prospect of being a part of that. Potentially I could use my Medical Science degree and if I go into that further I could use that in other passions that I might have.**