

Brand New Adventures Graduates smashing goals - Cairns

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The team at National Joblink in Cairns are thrilled to announce that their students in the Brand New Adventures program have been successful in gaining employment and are taking the local tourism industry by storm. These students have recently completed a Certificate II in Tourism which is funded by the Queensland Government under Skilling Queenslanders for Work. We are very excited to see them start the next stage of their Brand New Adventure in life.

Akee Maza demonstrated his outstanding skills in leadership and sharing cultural knowledge during the program, leading him to recently starting work with the award-winning tourist company Experience Co. Akee interviewed the staff on Experience Co's vessel 'Reef Magic' during the programme and has now secured a position with them in his new role as a Cruise Attendant.

The second student to successfully gain employment is Madeline Williamson who has also been offered a position with Experience Co as Cruise Attendant. During the programme Madeline showed she was an effective team player, this outstanding student is paving the way to success in her new career. "I can't wait to get started. It's a dream come true..." - said Maddie.

Another star from the programme, Jaida Nicholls has commenced work at Smithfield Swimming Pool as a Pool Attendant/Lifeguard. She now works full time and has used skills transferred from Brand New Adventures into her new role.

Zhane Brown has just secured employment with the Entrada Travel Group as a Cruise Attendant and will start her first shifts on Spirit of Cairns. Zhane looks forward to the opportunity of starting their liveaboard on the vessel 'Oceanquest' in the near future. Zhane is very excited with her new role and said that "it's the job I've always wanted!"

Entrada group were thrilled to be able to offer a position of Cruise Attendant, on Spirit of Cairns to Sky Smith. Sky will be attending to guests enjoying a dinner cruise along the Cairns Trinity Inlet. When walking to the vessel for her first shift, Sky commented "I can't believe I'm working on such a beautiful boat".

NJL Cairns Manager, Kim Homer said, "We are so proud of them all. They are the next generation of young Tourism Leaders - we can't wait to follow their journey."

National Joblink wish to express their congratulations to all students and wish them success in their future endeavours.



Parents Next new Outreach Location in Beaconsfield - Launceston

Many of the Launceston ParentsNext participants are lucky enough to live down the beautiful Tamar Valley, however, this also can impact on their ability to attend appointments due to the distance and lack of public transport available. The Beaconsfield Child and Family Centre Manager, Stewart Bell, identified a number of issues facing ParentsNext participants so reached out to National Joblink to discuss options around providing an Outreach location in Beaconsfield. ParentsNext Mentor Kaye's is now attending the Centre monthly.

Stewart and the team at the Centre have been very welcoming and are able to engage with participants who have found it difficult to attend their appointments previously. The feedback from participants has been that they didn't have the financial means to travel and would avoid follow up calls from Mentors as they were too embarrassed to mention the real reason they couldn't attend.

Stewart advised Kaye that many families are struggling to keep food on the table in the region and he has seen an increase in people accessing the Centre for assistance with food parcels. Having access to attending ParentsNext appointments in Beaconsfield will ease the financial pressure for families and will allow them access more support to help them work towards achieving their goals. National Joblink look forward to providing continued support to the families in the Beaconsfield community through the ParentsNext program.

Good News Stories

Corey – Gladstone QLD

Corey first came to National Joblink with the Transition to Work program. Corey was working with Hungry Jacks, but his hours were inconsistent, and he wanted to move out of the hospitality sector and find a role where he could establish a long-term career. Corey's dream was to earn a regular stable income so he could purchase his own home.

Despite going to great efforts with his job applications, Corey expressed to his Mentor his frustration and disappointment with his lack of success and wasn't sure what else he could do to secure an interview. Their first steps were to look at how Corey was applying for jobs, reviewing his seek profile and resume to identify any areas of improvement. During this review it was identified that Corey had not set up his Seek profile properly and had not verified his current licensing or tickets. When going over Corey's resume, his Mentor noted that it was only half a page and didn't cover Corey's duties or the responsibilities in his role at Hungry Jacks.

Corey was also not submitting a cover letter with his applications and didn't know how to write one. Together with his Mentor, Corey created a cover letter and was equipped with the tools to continually edit his cover letter for future applications.



Since working hard on his job application skills and with support of his mentor, Corey has been interviewed by 3 employers and has been offered a role with a very supportive local employer. Corey is super excited as he starts working full-time after Easter and is one step closer to his dream of owning his own home.

"You guys really helped me with learning how to make resumes and cover letters and furthering my knowledge in how to apply for a job". NJL congratulate Corey on his new role and wish him all the best in the future.

Mollie – Launceston TAS

Mollie, or Miss Mollie as she now affectionately known, has been attending the TTW program at National Joblink since July 2022. In the beginning Mollie was shy, lacked confidence and was unsure of her future goals. She was working at Maccas but was frustrated with the minimal hours she was being offered.

Mollie's confidence grew by the day, and she quickly became a familiar face around the office, with the whole team in Launceston working closely with her.

Mollie began attending the office daily and participating in all the groups and events offered including AGFEST, Bunnings BBQ's, Reclink Adventure Program and many more.

Mollie participated in and won our photography competition with a unique llama photo: assisted in getting donations for a raffle which supported the Kmart Wishing Tree: undertook driving lessons and made many new friends along the way.

By participating in these group activities Mollie gained valuable skills and the self-confidence to take the next step into achieving her employment goals. Mollie applied herself in all our job preparation activities, attending Marketing, Employer Expectations and Job Search groups and these activities supported Mollie to believe that she could accomplish her goals.

Towards the end of 2022 Mollie seriously started looking for employment. Mentors assisted Mollie in getting ready for employment by taking her to get a haircut and purchasing interview clothing, working on her resume and cover letter, and put her through mock interviews.



Mollie attended a marketing group to help grow her confidence to start speaking with employers' face to face and to improve her phone manner.

Mollie approached several businesses in the Launceston CBD and was successful in securing a position with Banjos. Mollie's hard work has paid off and she appreciates all the support from the Launceston Mentors. Mollie still drops in for a chat and we love to see her smiling face, NJL wishes you the best of luck with your future Mollie.

Danielle – Bridgewater, TAS

Danielle has been working with her current ParentsNext Mentor Karen since September 2022. Whilst in the program she disclosed that she is single mother of 4 and has been struggling with her mental health and general wellbeing. Karen supported Danielle with putting some strategies in place and arranged an emergency medical appointment to ensure her safety and wellbeing.

Danielle's finances were a contributing factor in her mental health struggles, so Karen referred Danielle to services including Mission Australia, Uniting and the local community houses for support with food, bills, and financial guidance, as well as accessing the employment fund for emergency food and medical support.

Danielle kept in regular contact with Karen and asked for her help with completing a resume and cover letter. Karen had heard that General Window and Cleaning were looking for staff, so Danielle dropped in her resume and 3 days later was invited for a trial. Danielle is now getting regular hours which has reduced her financial distress and is improving her overall mental health. Danielle's long-term goal is to open her own cake business, so to further support Danielle the Southern National Joblink team purchased a cake from her to celebrate the Southern Tas Business Manager's (Andrew) recent birthday.

Danielle has stated that she wouldn't be where she is today if it wasn't for the help and support of the ParentsNext program. Karen has also referred Danielle to services who specialise in small business support, to help Danielle continue her dream in achieving her small business goal. After taking all the small steps to reach where she is today, we have full confidence that Danielle will reach her long-term goal and we wish her the best of luck.

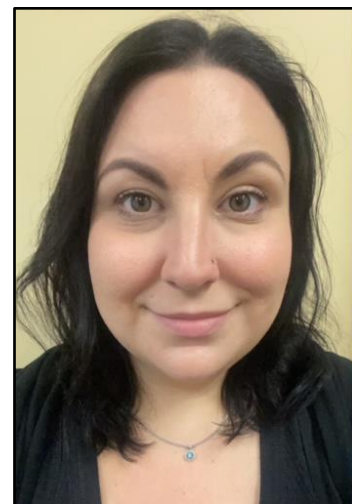
MEET THE TEAM

Emma Westwood – *Pre-Employment Mentor, Darwin, NT*

Hello, my name is Emma and I'm from the Darwin NJL team. I have been with NJL for two years now as a ParentsNext Mentor and love the challenges that come with supporting such a unique and diverse group of participants. I realised my real passion was to support, listen and 'mentor' people through their life's passions, so this Mentor role suits me to a tea - and I love that NJL helps me support others with finding their passions!

I previously worked in a Job Active role for 12 months before joining the NJL team, and for almost 10 years before that, worked in hospitality in Assistant Management and Allrounder roles.

I got engaged to the love of my life, in Sept 2022 and we bought our forever home, we have 3 cats, I love spending my time with them.



Jessica Dickinson – *Youth Mentor, Rockhampton, QLD*

Hello! My name is Jess and I've been a Youth Mentor with NJL Rockhampton since April 2021 and I absolutely love being able to make a difference to our young people's lives.

Outside of work I'm a mum to 2 very free-spirited girls, a step mum to 2 amazing kids, a dog mum to 4 (and hopefully with puppies on the way), and I also look after my husband and keep things running smoothly for our family business. I have a massive dislike for coriander and a fear of earth worms and moths!

I'm coffee obsessed, love country music, online shopping is my weakness, and my favourite animal is an elephant.

Sophie Potter – *Support Mentor, Devonport, TAS*

Hey, I'm Soph, I've worked at NJL since August 2020. I was originally employed as Team Administrator before being offered a position as a Youth Mentor in TtW. I enjoy working with young people, I love helping others overcome barriers and encouraging them to reach their goals. Supporting our participants to make a difference to their own lives is incredibly rewarding, and it's a great reminder as to why I come to work each day.

Prior to NJL, I have worked in various industries with past roles including but not limited to Hospitality, Barista, Retail, Creditors Clerk, Receptionist, Sales Administration, and Events & Marketing Assistant.

When I'm not at work I enjoy spending time with my partner Jye and our son Archer, hanging out with our 2 crazy dogs Gus and Ned, going swimming, shopping, listening to music, and spending time with family and friends.

