

## INDIGENOUS TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

# Meet BRAYDEN



### → What made you apply?

At the time, I was studying social work at TAFE and really enjoying it, but I was also feeling the pressure of supporting myself, especially with the cost of living being so high (and still rising!). Casual and part-time work just wasn't cutting it. Then the IGNITE traineeship came along and felt like the perfect answer: the chance to keep studying, earn a stable income, support my family, and be part of something meaningful. On top of that, there was real support on offer, not just a job, but a community.

### → Can you outline some of your daily tasks that you carried out in your role as an IGNITE trainee?

A big part of my role is supporting the daily operations of the office. That can include helping manage calendars, booking meetings, assisting with event prep, responding to general enquiries, and keeping track of equipment and resources. Every day is a little different, which keeps things interesting, and I've learned how important the work of the team behind the scenes really is in making everything run smoothly.

### → In what capacity has Western supported your professional development?

Western has always excelled at supporting its professional staff. From paid training to opportunities for cross-team experience, I've always felt like I've had the tools and encouragement to grow in my role. There's a strong focus on development here, and it makes a big difference.

### → Have your employment goals changed since commencing the traineeship? If so, what was the biggest influence?

Before this, I mostly worked labour jobs like warehousing and construction, so stepping into an office environment was a big change.

I wasn't sure how I'd adjust, but over time I've actually grown to enjoy the structure and variety of office work. It's changed

the way I see my career, I never really considered professional admin roles before, but now I can see a future in it. The IGNITE traineeship really opened that door for me.

### → What was your biggest fear when deciding to apply to the traineeship?

Honestly, my biggest fear was that I couldn't crack it. When you stay in your comfort zone, it's easy to tell yourself that you could do it, you just don't want to, or you're too busy.

I was scared that if I tried and failed, it would prove I wasn't good enough to work in a professional environment. But the truth is, we can do it. You can do it. It's not always easy, but if you take the chance, you might just surprise yourself.

### → What opportunities do you believe this traineeship presents for its participants?

One of the greatest opportunities this traineeship offers is the incredible support network. You're surrounded by kind, driven Indigenous people who understand where you're coming from, who'll have a yarn with you, support you, and work hard to uplift each other.

That sense of community and belonging, that's something really special, and it's one of the most valuable things you'll take away from the experience.

### → If you had one piece of advice to give to upcoming trainees, what would it be?

That's a tough question, you'll pick up at least ten lessons along the way! But if I had to pick one, it would be: say yes, if you have the ability to. Don't burn yourself out, but when opportunities come up, give them a go.

Some of the best parts of my traineeship came from saying yes to things I wasn't sure I was ready for, and those moments helped me grow the most.

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