



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations

Indigenous Youth Mobility Program

Case Study



Mervyn Fernando

For 22-year-old Mervyn Fernando, relocating more than 1000 kilometres away from his hometown to study has been a great move.

Home town:
Kempsey, NSW

IYMP location:
Shepparton, Victoria

**Studying Certificate
IV in Community
Recreation and Diploma
Community Services**

IYMP Provider:
Goulburn Ovens TAFE

The Australian Government's Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP) helped Mervyn move from the regional town of Kempsey in Northern NSW to Shepparton in Victoria. The IYMP supports young Indigenous people who choose to leave home for post-secondary education or training.

Upon arriving in Shepparton, Mervyn quickly got involved in his new community, taking part in activities through the Rumbalara Football and Netball Club, which is owned and run by the local Aboriginal community. He also became a spokesperson for the club.

Mervyn completed a Certificate IV in Community Recreation at the Academy of Sport, Health and Education (ASHE), which is run in partnership by Melbourne University, Rumbalara Football and Netball Club and Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (GOTAFE).

Mervyn says studying through the IYMP helped develop his self confidence. He even gave a speech at the 2010 national IYMP conference, and his story of drive and motivation touched everyone. Since then he has gone on to study a Diploma of Community Services and work as a student support officer at ASHE.

Mervyn was awarded the ASHE Sportsperson of the Year in 2010 and the GOTAFE Koorie Education Centre Achievement Award. He was recently named GOTAFE's Outstanding Student of the Year for the Shepparton Campus.

Mervyn has been offered an Indigenous Ambassadorship for Aboriginal Education and will travel around Australia talking to young people about the importance of school and training.

'It's very important to grow up with a career and dreams,' Mervyn says.

He also wants to make sure young people in his local community of Kempsey have the best opportunities in education and in life so they too can become leaders of the future.

The IYMP helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 to 24 move away from home to gain the skills they need to get a job in their community or elsewhere. IYMP provides costs with accommodation, education and training and focuses on assisting participants to obtain Certificate III qualifications and above. Participants can choose from 16 IYMP host locations.

**To apply and find out more visit
www.deewr.gov.au/IYMP.**