



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

### **INVESTING IN THE FUTURE**

While COVID-19 continues to create an atmosphere of uncertainty, particularly in Victoria, Mallee Family Care has demonstrated its commitment to supporting opportunity and building the capacity of northwest Victoria and far west New South Wales, by expanding its Student Placement Program.

Chief Executive Officer, Teresa Jayet, says that the Student Placement Program is an important part of the Mallee Family Care model that seeks to foster the skills, knowledge and experience of students who are looking to work in the community sector.

“Our program has been successfully growing over a number of years and during that time, we have seen many students transition to full time employment with Mallee Family Care.

“We accept student placements from local tertiary institutions and from those further afield, in study disciplines including social work, law, accounting and allied health.”

Ms. Jayet says she has been particularly pleased to be able to host placements during the COVID-19 crisis, noting that as the region continues to manage and recover from, the impacts of the virus and associated lockdowns, there will be growing demand placed on the community services sector.

“Now, perhaps more than ever before, we are going to need social workers, financial counsellors and allied health professionals to support our communities and by fostering the education of students in these fields, we are reinforcing the sector and our ability to deliver services.”

Mallee Family Care, as an essential service provider has continued to operate throughout 2020 and the Organisation is currently hosting 12 students across its program areas, in its offices in Mildura, Swan Hill and Dareton.

Kiarah Birthisel has just completed her placement with Mallee Family Care, as part of her Diploma of Community Services and she has accepted a full time position with the Organisation, as a Child and Family Worker.

“I absolutely loved my placement at Mallee Family Care. Everyone was very supportive and I quickly discovered that there are endless opportunities. When I was offered the role here, I couldn’t say yes quickly enough.”

This is a sentiment shared by the other students, including Shai-Lee Fargher, who like Kiarah, has been offered a permanent role with the Organisation, as a Financial Counsellor, after completing her internship with the Financial Counselling program.



**For all media enquiries:**

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“I loved my placement and the opportunity it gave me to continue learning while also being able to support clients.”

Ms. Jayet says that Mallee Family Care regularly advertises new Internship opportunities and she encourages local students to apply.

“Placements and Internships can provide students with the opportunity to apply the theory and skills they have learned, in a professional setting, and are a perfect segue to employment in the sector.

“They are a pathway to future careers.”

**ENDS**



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