**Annette Emonson: Nursing student**

Studying as a mature age student at Mildura I’ve found that some life experience has helped me with my studies. Sometimes it makes it easier because you know where you’re going and you know who you are and this is something that you’ve really looked at and chosen to do, so I suppose focused on it. It’s not something you’ve just followed on from high school.

The thing that I like most about the nursing course is the practical experience. Actually going out and doing clinical placement, because ultimately that’s what we’re working towards – we want to be a nurse in a hospital or wherever you choose you want to be a nurse, and it just gives you a chance that everything you’ve learned in class and everything we’ve practiced in the skills labs, we can go out and put it into practice.

So being a mum who studies, I’ve got two young boys, so obviously sometimes that’s a bit tricky, involves making a lot of personal sacrifices I suppose because you’re not only trying to fit in your life with uni you’re trying to work around their school life and just their everyday life. But when I decided to do this, when I decided to go to uni, it was something that I really wanted to do 100% so I was committed to it and decided that I’m going to do it, so I’m going to do it the best that I can.

I make the most of my time between, before and after classes. They’re times when I spend studying in the library, even on days that we don’t have scheduled classes I’m here at uni as long as I can, usually it fits around school hours because I’ve got to pick the children up but this is sort of like a job to me I’m here from the start of the day to the end of the day.