**7 Living on Campus Transcript**

My name is Jen and I’m studying dentistry at La Trobe University, at the moment. I’m living on student accommodation on the Bendigo Campus. I choose residential life because of the social aspect. There’s that social interaction where people don’t need to make the effort to drive somewhere to find someone, once everyone’s done studying they just walk out of their room and see everyone. Just watch moves, watch TV, play board games pretty much cook together and just chat. That’s what makes residential life, the life.

Living on campus you have to be disciplined, you have to remind yourself to wake up for classes there’s no mum knocking on your door anymore. You have to cook for yourself, you have to pretty much pay your own bills- your phone bill, your accommodation bill-Just have to be more disciplined more responsible for yourself and that’s essentially one of the life skills you have to learn in your life.

La Trobe residential life offers all these academic support as well as pastoral care. As a student leader on residential life we support the physical and mental health of all residents here, we aim to foster pastoral care to all residents and pretty much make them feel as comfortable as possible moving out from their home to here. We support academic skills through being a mentor and help them with all their school work or the referencing that they might find is different from High School and just any issues they have on the academic side. But it doesn’t have to academic all the time it can be bonding skills within the course or any social interaction. To help first years make friends we try to organise activities with in Res. such as on orientation week we had a hypnotist come in, entertainment show, next week we’re having a toga party.

Some colleges have catering provided and that is optional. Last year when I was in first year I had catering provided for me for the whole year and the reason why I did that was because my cooking wasn’t competent enough, pretty much coming out of year 12 I did not know cooking at all and this year I’m cooking for myself because I learnt a lot from my mum and my family over the holidays, that’s one of the life skills I wanted to develop.

In first year I used to go home every weekend because my mum was worried about me, she just wanted to see me, she’s never used to me not being home. So I would go home every weekend and fortnight. This year in second year of my studies, I’ve been going home less. I’ve been going home every fortnight or every 3 weeks because I’ve been really busy here with Student Leader, mentoring and my work, and just trying to find a part-time job here in Bendigo, just making more of a life in Bendigo. Compared to Bendigo, Melbourne, it’s pretty much the same I’m starting to think Bendigo as a suburb that’s pretty much 2 hours away from Melbourne. Just another suburb.

Paying for accommodation, as a student leader I get a discount on my fee and through my summer job over the holidays and through my parent’s contribution we both pay for it and that helps me pretty much build that responsibility that I have to look after myself as well as I get help from my parents, so my parents pretty much slowly ease out of helping me and that’s when I come fully responsible for all my bills and everything.

That advice that I give to students in my mentor sessions and my brother especially is that you have to have fun, you have to make first year your year. It’s when you have the most time to make new friends, form new friendships and just make more memories that will pretty much last you a lifetime.