La Trobe University Mildura: Larry

When I think about the Mildura campus as a place to study the most important word that I think about from a student perspective is access. The big differentiating factor between any regional campus of any university and a major metropolitan campus is your staff/student ratios, and the fact that at a small regional campus we have smaller class sizes and also access to resources.

A lot of people I don’t think realise for example through the La Trobe library network you can access a whole network of library services worldwide.

So for example with our document delivery service you can order a chapter from nearly any book that has been published in the last hundred years and within five days you’ll have a PDF copy of that chapter on your desktop here in Mildura.

When I think about accounting as a profession, I might be accused of being biased here, but the thing about accounting as a profession is that most people think of accounting as doing tax returns or doing some other type of compliance work, be it tax or audit or some other regulatory compliance. I see accounting as a gateway to a whole myriad of possibilities.

Even if we think about just the Sunraysia region, we have accounting graduates up here who work in the compliance area like taxation and audit compliance, but we also have students up here who are employed in the education sector, we have students up here who are CFOs – chief financial officers – for a number of the wineries up here. We have students up here who are employed as quality managers. We have students up here who are employed as HR managers in some private organizations up here.

So even though they’ve come here to La Trobe and they’ve done an accounting degree, they haven’t put their accounting hat on when they’ve graduated and gone out and done accounting, they’ve branched off into a whole myriad of different things.

Our biggest message we try and sell to our students is to look at accounting as a gateway to a lot of opportunities, not a straight jacket to a single type of opportunity.