

Past Student Story

Leanne Taylor (2003)



Hi, my name is Leanne Taylor-Draper, formerly Leanne Taylor. I am a proud Mandandanji/Yuwaalaraay woman from St George. I completed all of my schooling in St George. Primary schooling at St George State School and graduated from St George State High School in 2003.

My journey since high school has been - children and life experiences first, career second. My children coming along lit a fire in my belly and I knew that I could live a more fulfilling life. I enrolled in the Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Teacher Education Program (RATEP) and completed my diploma of education through Cairns TAFE QLD. I then, continued with RATEP and studied the bachelor of primary education externally through James Cook

University. I worked full time and studied full time. Then, in 2019, I was the first person in my family to be a university graduate with a bachelor's degree.

I started teaching in my home community at St Patrick's school in St George. I taught Year 1 there for two years, before moving to Chinchilla. This is my 5th year in Chinchilla. I have taught Year 4, Year 1 and Year 6 and have been the Learning Support Teacher at St Joseph's School in Chinchilla so far. This year, I am the Years 3-6 Learning Support Teacher and the Well-being and Engagement Officer. In 2021, I attained a continuing position and am taking on the new leadership roles appointed to me, which have included Acting Deputy Principal on several occasions.

Today my family, my job and my culture are my backbone. I am instilling that pride and ambition in my sons and the students that I work with. I am deeply thankful for my education at St George State High School. My five years there are filled with cherished memories. I encourage all students, especially First Nations students, to set goals, dream big, and believe in your ability to achieve them.

Leanne Taylor