

IT'S THE SMALL THINGS THAT MATTER

Brooklyn Lyndon-Tonga

NGĀTI HINE | NGĀTI POROU

Brooklyn Lyndon-Tonga is happily carving out a career for herself as a lab technician at Auckland's North Shore Hospital.

Nō Hea Koe

I grew up in Pukekohe and Pipiwai. I went to school at Kamo High School and He Matariki School for Teen Parents in Whangarei.

Choosing a Career

When I was 10 my brother and I got rheumatic fever at the same time. I found it really hard to cope with the tests and the checkups and injections. I remember thinking I wanted to be someone's tuakana to help them understand what's going on.

“Kia Ora Hauora helped me access opportunities”

Kia Ora Hauora

I've been registered with Kia Ora Hauora since I was at school. They were there when I did my health care assistant training; they were there when I was thinking of what to study at university and how to get there. When I needed help with scholarships – they were there.

I went to all the KOH conferences and all the hospital work exposure days and I met all these cool people doing cool things in health. I'd definitely recommend Kia Ora Hauora because they helped me access different opportunities and encouraged me to try out different things.

Variety of Jobs

I had to know if the career I thought I wanted was what I actually did want. I started out studying – didn't like studying. I did health care assistance – I did like it, but there were parts I didn't like. And then I thought nursing would be good for me – but no. I was a little bit lost.

The Best Fit

It's an earn-while-you-learn kind of job. I'm working and learning on the job and studying. To become qualified, I have to sit a final exam – one down, one year to go.

I'm so glad I chose this job it's so me. It's quite important work, I'm learning so much.

Your Job is

I'm a Lab Technician in training; I have one more year to go. I specialise in histology, which is the study of the microscopic structure of tissue. When patients go in for operations and they get tissue removed, it comes to us – particularly the tissue that needs to be tested. We produce the slides that doctors use. We have to get it right; a lot depends on one test.

Training Path

I attend a lecture every month. The whole course is two years, so my contract for this job is two years.

The first year is mainly study and the second year is more practical. The course requires you to have a log book of your year's work. To sit the exam, you have to do the work; learning and then applying the theory makes sense.

This is just the Start

Definitely, after I sit my finals and pass, I'll have an Annual Practising Certificate (APC) I'd like to study science and add to what I'm doing. Become a scientist, maybe a doctor, which was my dream from when I was little. I work with people that have done just that, they're scientists, doctors and I want to be like that.

