



STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

Carine: A New Beginning...

The virtual enterprise (VE) can provide a host of opportunities to people from many walks of life and give them an invaluable set of skills to take away. As a VE runs as a business, students with English as a second language, for example, gain the opportunity to interact with others and therefore not only gather business skills, but also language, cultural and work ethic qualities.

Carine has attributed working in the VE, as giving her the opportunities as a refugee (she came to Australia only two and a half years earlier), to allowing her to materialise her dreams today. Carine believes the secrets to her success are a combination of working in a VE, to give her business experience, combined with her own determination to achieve her goals. Carine is not only continuing her studies but working with her sister in managing their family business; (whilst she may be busy, she is very happy).

Name: Carine Kampiamba
Current Job Role: Student (Bachelor of Commerce) and running family business
Course: Certificates II, III and IV in Business & Diploma in Business Administration
Virtual Enterprise: Crocodylus VE, Charles Darwin University, NT



Why was working in the VE beneficial to your career?

I had the chance to practice my skills in a practical and comfortable environment where I could learn from my mistakes without the stress of doing any harm to the real business. Working in a real life environment confirmed for me that it is a career that suits me and that I enjoy.

What were the most useful business skills you gained?

I gained important skills in leadership, analytical thinking, time management, coaching, communication, teamwork, problem solving, mentoring and negotiation skills. My confidence has grown along with my ability to work with people at all levels and from all backgrounds.

What was the no. 1 experience that made a difference for you when you joined the workforce?

I have learned to consider environmental factors and to target clientele before starting a business. As a result, with my sister, I have set up a successful small business, the African Fashion Boutique, at Casuarina village.

How do you feel your time in the VE prepared you for the workplace?

The virtual enterprise helps you to identify who you are, what you have, what you need and how to refine your skills to be a better manager.

Is there anything else you feel that helped you to stand out in this program?

I was flexible, sought feedback, welcomed constructive criticism and continually reflected on my strengths and weaknesses. I also came with the confidence that with hard work any goal can be achieved.