

Nursing Education & Research Foundation
PO Box 2128
Wellington

1 November 2015

Dear Diana,

Re: Report back for Undergraduate Scholarship

I am writing to thank you for the Nursing Education and Research Foundation undergraduate scholarship that I received earlier this year. I really appreciated the financial assistance this scholarship provided me as it allowed me to reduce my employment hours during my clinical placements, particularly during my final transition to practice placement.

I have really enjoyed my final year of the Bachelor of Nursing programme and I am really excited about sitting the state final examination so that I can complete the final step towards becoming a registered nurse. The clinical placements I have done this year have been a real highlight for me, particularly my transition to practice placement in the Orthopaedic and Urology ward at Wellington Hospital. There was so much to learn in this ward and I really enjoyed the responsibility I was given by my preceptor who gave me the opportunity to care for a patient load equivalent to that of a RN as well as taking the lead in clinical decision making. One moment during my clinical placement that I particularly remember is when I was talking to a patient as I did his vital signs and he made a comment that he had been so tired from being in ED all night that he could not concentrate when the diabetes nurse specialist had visited him the day before. I read through what the diabetes nurse specialist had documented in his notes and then went back to the patient and went through this with him by using the teach back method. It was really rewarding to be able to provide this education to him about managing his diabetes and see that I had been successful in my teaching. For me this situation really highlighted the importance of holistic nursing care and ensuring we always take the time to listen to our patients so that we can work in partnership with them to improve their health outcomes.

I have also really enjoyed the academic side of this year. The courses we have done this year have really consolidated the learning we have done in the first two years of the programme. I have particularly enjoyed the *Nursing in Acute Illness and Trauma* and *Assessment and Clinical Decision Making* courses as they have really developed my assessment skills. I also really enjoyed the reflective writing component of them as I found this was a wonderful learning tool as it allowed me not only the opportunity to critically analyse my practice but also identify the progress I have made in my clinical practice. Academically I achieved an A in *Research for Clinical Practice* and an A- in *Nursing in Acute Illness and Trauma*. Final results for semester two are not yet available but in both papers I am currently sitting on an A- average.

During the July break between semesters I led a tramping trip for my tramping club, Wellington Tramping & Mountaineering Club, up to Te Matawai hut in the Tararuas. Not only did this provide me with an opportunity to further develop my leadership skills but it also gave me an opportunity apply my clinical knowledge in a more remote environment as during the tramp one member of the group required nursing care.

I would like to thank you again for the scholarship I received as it really was a tremendous help to me this year.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Fisher